What are gay Republican's thinking? Find out from Dale Carpenter, Log Cabin Club board member, in OutRight.

Sisters sashay. Catholicism survives. What a relief.



SF Ballet gets two to oversee the fabulously romantic warhorse 'Giselle.' see Arts section



Vol. 29 • No. 14 • 8 April 1999

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 28 years

CUAV releases anti-LGBT violence report

by Mark Norby

A colorful and energetic group of activists and concerned citizens gathered around the leadership of Community United Against Violence (CUAV) at a public forum and press conference Tuesday, April 6 at the San Francisco Main Library. The event was CUAV's annual announcement of anti-lesbian, gay, bissexual, and transgender (LGBT) violence and hate crimes committed in

nouncement of anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) violence and hate crimes committed in
1998, and is the group's fifth report in
association with the National Association of Anti-Violence Programs.
As outrage and frustration permeate the country in the wake of the brutal murders of Matthew Shepard in
Wyoming and Billy Jack Gaither in Alabama, the LGBT community members at Tuesday's event seemed alert
and anxious, as CUAV's Director of
Client and Advocacy Services Jennifer
Rakowski delivered statistics that prove
the community has miles to go before
it sleeps. "These tragedies are a reminder," said Rakowski, "that homophobia, racism, and hate are lethal, and
all too often a motive for violence."
As in the San Francisco vigil for
Gaither last month, transgender people were a highly visible community
at CUAV's forum; the group has seen
dramatic increases in incidents of violence over the last year. "The attempted murder of Leonard 'Lynn'
Vines, who was shot six times [in New
York] after hearing the words 'We
don't allow no drag queen faggots in
this neighborhood,' is just one example of the extreme violence committed against this group in our community," Rakowski stated.

San Francisco Supervisors Tom

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San Francisco Supervisors Tom page 18 ▶

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Marshal forces

VOTE FOR PRIDE GRAND MARSHAL APRIL 17 by Cynthia Laird



fter months of receiving nomina-tions for Pride Parade grand mar-shal, the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay. Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee,

Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee, Inc. has decided to open the process of selecting this year's grand marshal by having a community vote next Saturday, April 17 to pick parade leaders in two categories: individual and organization.

The list of 18 nominees represents virtually every segment of the queer community. From youth to religious leaders to community activists, a wide spectrum of people are nominated. Some people were nominated by friends or others in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, while parade committee members nominated others, said Executive Director Teddy Witherington. This year's pride events take place June 26 and 27; the theme is "Proud Heritage, Powerful Future."

"The board's roll was to look at the nominating list as a whole and fill in gaps," Witherington told the Bay Area Reporter.

To honer reganizations that have served the community, there is a separate entry for organization grand marshal. Those nominees are the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF), Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

(PFLAG), and the Sisters of Perpetual In-

dulgence.
Witherington and Calvin Gipson, pride witherington and Carvin Orpson, prince board president, said the community vote represents a "bold new direction" for the selection of this year's marshal. For the public vote, a polling place will be open at 18th and Castro streets from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Castro streets from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Pride committee volunteers, complete with festive balloons and banners, will staff the polling place. Officials said anyone can vote, regardless of residency, although only one vote per person per category is allowed. "The staff are enthusiastic about it," said Witherington. "This event represents more than San Francisco."

than San Francisco."

It's also possible to vote by mail; ballots will appear in local publications next week that can be mailed to the pride office. To reduce the chances of people submitting multiple votes, there will be no voting via telephone or e-mail. Mailed ballots must be received by Friday, April 23.

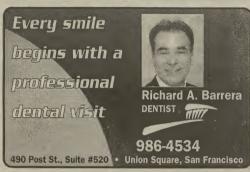
Individual nominees

Keith Boykin, executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and author of the 1996 book One More River to Cross: Black & Gay in America. Boykin served as a special assistant to President Bill Clinton and helped organize the first meeting between gay and lesbian leaders and the president. Boykin is a grad-uate of Harvard Law School and his work with the leadership forum has received wide

Barbara Cameron, former executive di-rector of Community United Against Vio-lence and one of the people who worked to incorporate the pride celebration commit-tee. Cameron, a Native American, was chair of the parade committee for many years and founded Gay American Indians when she came to San Francisco at age 18. Pan David of the Mayor's Office of Community Development told the B.A.R. that Cameron is someone who's "really paid her dues in

page 17 ▶







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Castro hate crime reaches D.A.'s office

by Mark Norby

fficers and investigators of the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) have charged 21-year-old Ban Doc Im with aggravated assault and an anti-gay hate crime in the March 19 beating of Bradley Davis in the Castro District.

The SFPD claims that Thuan Cao Thruang, Im's alleged accomplice in the incident who was booked on assault and hate crime charges, either is currently or has

The SFPD claims that Thuan Cao Thruang, Im's alleged accomplice in the incident who was booked on assault and hate crime charges, either is currently or has been an employee at Slider's Diner, located at 449 Castro Street. Mike Dong, manager of Slider's Diner, told the Bay Area Reporter that he has "never heard of any of the suspects" and that Thruang has not been in his employ. Although booked in the Davis incident, charges against Thruang were later dropped.

Witnesses to the crime report that Im and three other men vertat Im and the page 10 men vertat Im and the page 10 men vertat Im and three other men vertat Im and Im and

Witnesses to the crime report that Im and three other men verbally assaulted Davis and then chased and beat him unconscious at approximately 12:10 a.m. near the Castro Theater. Police reports indicate that Davis heard the men yelling homophobic insults and racial slurs, and objected by approaching them and telling them to stop the activity. The suspects retaliated by gripping Davis, ripping off his shirt, and then chasing him across Castro Street. Davis ran from the suspects and fell to the ground near a van



Bradley Davis

parked next to the curb fronting Ultimate Yogurt. The suspects then began kicking and hitting Davis repeatedly while he lay in the gutter, leaving him bleeding and unconscious. Davis was later treated at Davies Medical Center where he received several stitches for lacerations and a head wound.

for lacerations and a head wound. Davis was discovered unconscious near the theater by Officers Lisa Frazer and Maria Escobar who work together with the San Francisco Patrol Special Police, a force exclusively hired to monitor the Castro District and paid for by the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro (MUMC).

After Davis's beating, the sus-

pects were later seen running into the theater parking lot. Frazer and Escobar found two of the suspects trying to flee in a silver Honda. A third suspect was found hiding underneath a parked car and two others were detained further away from the scene. On March 19 Henry Sai Hung Kwong was also booked in the incident, but charges were dropped due to non-complicity and because Im admitted to instigating the assault and battery.

and battery.

According to the assigned SPPD investigator, Brian Danker, Im confessed to police that he beat Davis because he "didn't like the guy because he was gay." The officers had asked the district attorney to prosecute the case as a hate crime in addition to the charges of aggravated assault, Danker said, thereby aiming to deter future hate crime activity and acts of violence.

and acts of violence.

Im was arraigned on March 25 and the case is now before Assistant District Attorney Maria Bee, who will review the charges later this week pending consultation with Im's public defender.

The Davis incident received

The Davis incident received wide media attention and has raised new concerns over the gay community's safety in the city. "If this type of violent crime is happening in the Castro," stated gay Castro resident Michael Tadler, "it's a cause for serious alarm. Do we really have to watch our backs wherever we go?"

**The Davis incident Tadler, "It was a cause for serious alarm. Do we really have to watch our backs wherever we go?"

**The Davis incident received watch the city. The Davis is a cause for serious alarm. Do we really have to watch our backs wherever we go?"

**The Davis incident received with the city. The Davis is a cause of the city. The city is a cause of the city. The Davis is a cause of the city. The Davis is a cause of the city. The city is a cause of the city is a cause of the city. The city is a cause of the city is a cause of the city. The city is a cause of the city is a cause of the city. The city is a cause of the city is a cause of the city is a cause of the city. The city is a cause of the city is a cause of the city is a cause of the city. The city is a cause of the city. The city is a cause of the city is a cause of

April declared STD Awareness Month

by Mark Norby

esponding to recent public health reports indicating that sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) lead to increased risk of HIV infection, Supervisor Leslie Katz introduced a resolution at the a meeting of the Board of Supervisors Monday, April 5 declaring April STD Awareness Month for the City and County of San Francisco. Katz was joined by Department of Public Health (DPH) Director of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Control Services Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, in unveiling public service posters addressing STD awareness as well as the new school screening program, an in-school STD testing program or all San Francisco high school students.

Last summer the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention released a report stating that STDs increase the risk for HIV infection by at least two to five times. The report strongly advocated that early detection and treatment of curable STDs should be widely implemented as an HIV prevention strategy. The report also recommended that all sexually active males and females should be screened annually, a recommendation that has become more feasible with the availability of urine-based diagnostic testing.

sible with the availability of urinebased diagnostic testing.
"I am deeply committed to improving the health of San Franciscans," Katz stated at the board meeting, "and addressing the problems of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection is a huge part of that. New testing procedures will make the screening process much easier and more readily available." In a Wednesday, April 6 interview with the Bay Area Reporter, Katz stated in more specific terms that genital and anal gonorrhea increase the risk of HIV infection, as does venereal disease and genital herpes. "It is these lesser viruses," commented Katz, "that give an opportunity for HIV to present itself during sexual intercourse, whereby infecting the individual."

Echoing Katz's words, Klausner stated that "to make STD screening easier, the San Francisco Department of Public Health has made the new urine STD tests available at all community health

Echoing Katz's words, Klausner stated that "to make STD screening easier, the San Francisco Department of Public Health has made the new urine STD tests available at all community health centers including [the public] City Clinic on 7th Street, and at hospitals and selected schools. Because persons can be infected and have no symptoms, it is important for sexually active persons to get tested for these easily treatable infections," Klausner said. \textsf

As Plush as it gets: Shanti pops concert raising spirits and money, Tuesday

by Mark Norby

hanti will host a fundraising event this Tuesday, April 13 at 8 p.m. at San Francisco's Plush Room Cabaret located in the York Hotel, 940 Sutter Street. It's the first in a series of concerts to generate funding for one of the oldest AIDS humanitarian organizations in the country. The event features the Broadway and pop cabaret sounds of The Bohemian Club, artistically directed by Fred Wicknick. Additional hosts include San Fran-

cisco Supervisor Gavin Newsom and Shanti founder Charlie Garfield, and restaurants Plumpjack, The Gold Coast, Original Joe's, and Izzy's Steak House, all providing the evening's hors d'oeuvres. Shanti has been serving people with AIDS (PWA) and AIDS-re-

Shanti has been serving people with AIDS (PWA) and AIDS-related illnesses for over 25 years. Trevor Logan, manager of the Plush Room Cabaret, generously donated the space for the Shanti fundraiser, and his smoky-without-the-smoke venue will be kicking off the Shanti pops concert series. This first concert is limited to

135 tickets, due to the intimate atmosphere of the venue, and early response for tickets is encouraged. Those unable to attend can still

Those unable to attend can still support the event by purchasing a ticket through the Shanti Scholarship Fund, which allows Shanti's PWA clients unable to afford the event an opportunity to attend. All tickets are tax-deductible and cost \$35 with a two-drink minmum at the club.

Tickets are available by calling Stu Smith at (415) 923-1452.

ABC 86's beer busts

Lone Star benefit events shut down

by Mark Norby

he state Alcoholic Beverage he state Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) agency is taking measures to close down the city's beer busts and beer benefits, in an effort to prevent the "uncontrolled amount of outgoing alcohol" at local bars and clubs. ABC officials told the Bay Area Reporter they launched the action upon receiving an the action upon receiving an "anonymous complaint from people in Los Angeles" about the Lone Star Saloon, located at 1354 Harrison Street in the South of Market District, after the Interna-

in mid-February.

ABC officials informed the Lone Star management that beer busts and beer benefits are "unlicensed events," and that such events would no longer be al-lowed. "Beer busts and beer bene-

fits allow uncontrolled amounts of alcohol to be sold for a fixed price at the bars and clubs," ABC District Administrator Michael Tyrel told the B.A.R. "The problem is these events allow patrons to consume unlimited amounts of

Beer busts and benefits have been popular in the gay community for many years, and are typically designed to raise money for cally designed to raise money for AIDS organizations like the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) or Project Open Hand. The Lone Star Saloon, which has had a standard donation fee of \$6 to \$8 per cup, allowing the cup's holder the opportunity to refill as many times as desired, no longer will hold the events; instead, it will charge \$1 per beer with a set amount going to the designated charity.

Tyrel said the difference be-

Tyrel said the difference be-tween a patron purchasing drinks individually and purchasing un-

limited refills is that "if a patron purchases a cup for \$10 and ex-pects to be able to refill it as many pects to be able to refill it as many times as he likes, but the bar-tender, having recognized that the patron is noticeably intoxicated, the patron has the right to insist on another refill because he pur-chased the cup with the under-standing that he is entitled to un-limited refills."

Tyrel also said bars would not

Imited refills."

Tyrel also said bars would not be allowed to sell a cup for a set price and then charge a smaller amount per additional refill. "That would still allow an uncontrolled amount of alcohol to be outgoing from the bar," he said. "If a bar wants to hold a benefit event, then the proper action for the bar owner to take would be to advertise the event as such, charge standard prices for drinks, then standard prices for drinks, then follow the event with a set dona-tion which would go to the spe-cific charity."

Tyrel stated that other bars that hold beer busts and benefits will be monitored "on a complaint basis." He further stated that the ABC does not have the personnel to go around the city, closing down the events wherever

closing down the events wherever they are held.

Kevin Owens, owner of the Lone Star, declined to comment on the ABC's action, stating that "their attorney is handling the case and will answer all pertinent questions." Owens's attorney, Jeffrey Gibson, declined to comment on the situation.





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Alcohol Screening Day today

by Bob Roehr

o you have a problem with alcohol? The first National Alco-The first National Alcohol Screening Day can help you answer that question. Today (Thursday, April 8) has been set aside for the innovative free program at 2,000 sites across the gram at 2,000 sites across the country. In San Francisco, sites will be at New Leaf Services for Our Community, 1853 Market Street and at Borders Books, 400

Post Street.

The screening day includes three presentations centered on the full range of alcohol problems, awritten screening questionnaire, and one-on-one talk with a health professional. Referrals to treat-ment facilities and self-help pro-grams are also available when ap-

propriate.
Nearly 14 million Americans –
one in 13 people – have a problem
with alcohol, costing society an
estimated \$150 billion a year.
"Alcohol problems impact all
aspects of life, damaging physical
health, job and school functioning, interpersonal relationships,
and mental and emotional welland mental and emotional well-being," says Dr. Shelly Greenfield, an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School.

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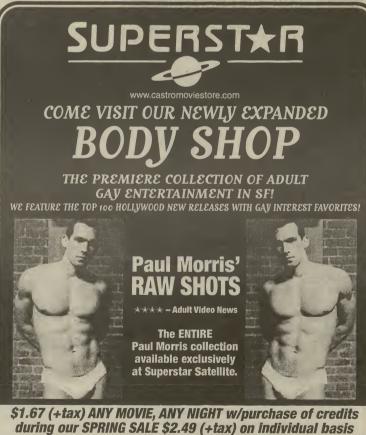
down drunk to have a problem. Harmful patterns include the abuse of binge drinking and the dependence of maintenance drinking where you need alcohol in order to function. Men are two-to three times more likely than women to suffer from the problem

lem.
"Alcoholism is a disease of the brain, with a genetic predisposi-tion," says alcohol researcher Dr. Ting-Kai Li. Some people's bodies process the chemical differently, or their nerve receptors are more sensitive to it. Those who are gesensitive to it. Those who are genetically predisposed may be up to five times as susceptible to its addictive qualities. They physically become addicted much more quickly and at lower levels of im-

Researchers also found that there is a cultural component, by studying identical twins who were raised in different households. How and when you start drinking can also affect your genetic proclivities to processing alcohol.

To find a site near you for National Alcohol Screening Day, call 1-800-405-9200. Additional medical information on alcohol can be found at www.niaaa.nih.gov or

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Beyond homophobia



regory Herek, professor of psychology at the University of California, Davis, gave the keynote address at San Francisco State University's "Moving Beyond Homophobia" conference that started Wednesday, April 7 and concludes Friday, The symposium Friday. The symposium explores the causes of anti-gay violence, masculinity, women's issues, heterosexual panic, multiple identitles, religion, homophobia, anti-transgender violence, and Christian conservatives and their prepocupation. and their preoccupation with homosexuals. The conference is part of an ongoing series of events that mark SFSU's cen-

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SFGH pharmacy woes

Long waits, new co-pay plan in effect

by Cynthia Laird

CT UP/Golden Gate has written to San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz to ask that the satellite pharmacy at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) be re-opened. The satellite pharmacy was closed last month and since then, at times the wait at SFGH's main pharmacy has been six hours or longer for people picking up their medica-tions.

The Department of Public

Health faces a budget shortfall \$25.4 million and the pharmacy changes are to help ease the deficit. Additionally, on Monday, April 5, the pharmacy began charging prescription co-payments of at least \$2 to most of its

poor patients.
At the Health Commission meeting Tuesday, April 6, Katz gave an update on the pharmacy situation, but the new co-payment plan remains in effect. Under the change, MediCal and other sponsored patients have the other sponsored patients have the option of filling their prescriptions at outside pharmacies. If they continue to get prescriptions at the SFGH pharmacy, there's now a collection process for pa-tients with a MediCal share of cost and for co-payments that's \$2 per prescription up to a maxi-mum of \$10 per visit from pa-tients without health insurance.

Katz told the commission that the pharmacy and patient accounts departments worked together to help make the process as smooth as possible for people. On Monday, the first day of the new system, things went relatively smoothly; however, Katz noted that rainy weather resulted in an overall decrease in pharmacy vol-ume. Approximately 1,200 pre-scriptions were filled, 20 percent less than the daily average of

1,500.

"Almost all patients who had a make their payments," Katz's re-port stated. "The pharmacy col-lected \$1,117.75."

Katz said the hospital will eval-

uate the operations on a daily basis and make continuous efforts to improve the system. Hospital officials will address the needs of individual patients on a case by

Dr. Melissa Welch, medical di-Dr. Melissa Welch, medical director for the Community Health Network in the city, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the changes involving the pharmacy were part of a restructuring process to ease the deficit, and that the pharmacy had always been lenient in enforcing share of cost payments from parts. always been lenient in enforcing share of cost payments from patients. Welch also said that for those unable to pay, it's always been the city's policy to work with people to make sure they get their medications and that policy continues.

The March 30 letter to Brown and Katz from ACT UP/Golden Gate asks that the city provide

and katz from ACT UP/Golden Gate asks that the city provide funding to re-open the satellite pharmacy at Building 80/90 at SFGH, primarily because it helps people living with HIV/AIDS to start and maintain complicated

treatment schedules. The satellite pharmacy closed March 3. "Since the closure of the satel-lite pharmacy, the wait time at the

"since the closure of the satellite pharmacy, the wait time at the
main pharmacy has become unacceptably long (with wait times
exceeding one day in some cases).
If people with HIV/AIDS cannot
get access to drugs, they cannot
adhere to complicated treatment
schedules," the letter stated.

ACT UP/Golden Gate also
stated that in some cases,
HIV/AIDS patients cannot get
their drugs at other pharmacies.
"Not all HIV/AIDS patients at
SFGH are on ADAP [AIDS Drug
Assistance Program] or Medicare
and these patients cannot afford
to pay out of pocket for their prescriptions. Even for patients on
ADAP or Medicare, not all of
their required prescriptions are
covered by these programs. Lastly, sick and indigent people often
cannot spare the energy or resources to travel to other pharmacies" said the letter. sources to travel to other pharma-

sources to travel to other pharmacies," said the letter.
Bill Barnes, the mayor's
HIV/AIDS policy advisor, told the
B.A.R. that he has seen the letter but declined to comment on it, referring inquiries to DPH. ACT UP/Golden Gate mem-

bers added that the satellite phar-macy provided critical patient education services to help people living with HIV/AIDS take their drugs properly. "The satellite pharmacists developed expertise specific to HIV/AIDS medications and had the time to educate patients on how to properly take their complicated drug regimens," members stated. ▼

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Fundraiser to fight Knight initiative tonight

All Our Families, many of our lawmakers

by Cynthia Laird

he fight against the anti-gay he fight against the anti-gay marriage Knight initiative takes off tonight (Thursday, April 8) with a reception to benefit All Our Families Coalition's (AOFC) grassroots campaign against the measure that state voters will decide in March 2000.

Tonight's event takes place at the home of Dr. John Newmeyer in San Francisco from 6 to 8 p.m.; tickets start at \$100 per person. Oodles restaurant is catering the event.

Local officials expected to be on hand include San Francisco Assemblywoman Carole Migden and San Francisco Supervisor

Mark Leno.
"This event's funding will be used to educate all Californians used to educate all Californians about our families and how the anti-gay family Knight initiative, appearing on our March 2000 ballot, hurts all families," said Cheryl Deaner, AOFC's executive director. "This initiative would make it public policy that our families not be given the same rights other families in society enjoy,"

Funds raised at the event will also be used to support domestic partnership and adoption rights issues.

Leno said it's important for Leno said it's important for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communi-ty to fight the Knight initiative, even though it will be a daunt-ing challenge. A Field Poll last week revealed that 55 percent of California voters favor the pro-visions of the Knight initiative;

'Hearts on the Bay' to benefit Breast Cancer Action

by Cynthia Laird

n evening of romance, dancing, and blackjack at San Francisco's Golden Gate Yacht Club takes place this Saturday, April 10, all for a good cause. All gambling proceeds from "Hearts on the Bay," the event or-ganized by Wild Heart Produc-tions, will benefit Breast Cancer Action (BCA) of San Francisco.

Action (BCA) of San Francisco.
The event will begin at 8 p.m.
and end at 1 a.m., during which
disc jockey Page Hodel will be on
hand and light hors d'oeuvres will be served to accompany the no-host bar. "Hearts on the Bay," pre-sented by Terry Dollard, Laurie Martin, and Chris Carnes, is a fa-vorite fundraiser, and has won a Cable Car Award for best women's

community event.

Tickets are \$35 per person at the door. For more information, call (415) 334-0871. ▼ 39 percent were against the measure, with 6 percent undecided. Only 20 percent of those surveyed said they had heard of the

initiative.
"The value of demanding respect for our relationships goes to the very core of who we are," Leno

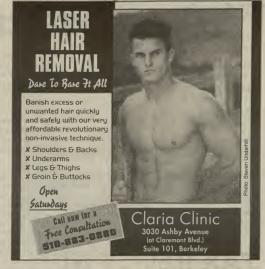
Migden also urged community members to attend the event, say-ing she has worked with AOFC to "bring value and respect to our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families."

"We work hand-in-hand to pass domestic partnership legislation, beat back the Knight initiative, and secure second parent adoption rights."

For location information, call AOFC at (415) 681-1960.



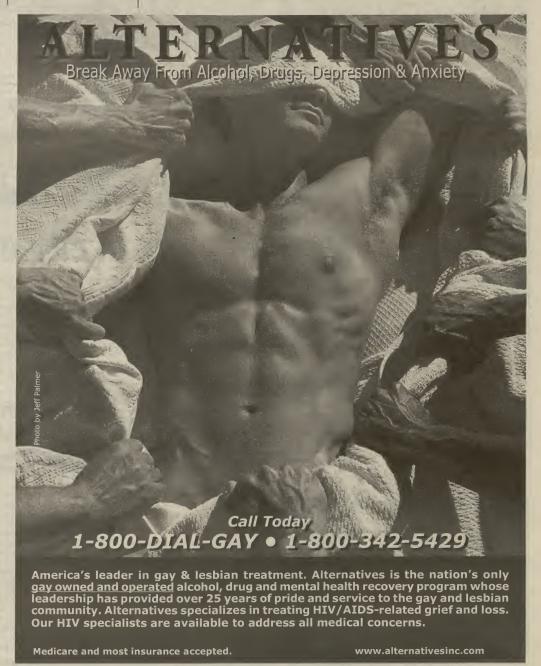
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Volume 29, Number 14 8 April 1999

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Prescriptions for misery

Gates got a lot of fawning attention in the press for donating \$1.5 million to relief efforts aimed at Kosovo refugees. While the donation is certainly better than nothing, and is desperately needed, it must be pointed out that many San Franciscans are providing compara-tively more (and getting a lot less atten-tion) every time they pick up a prescrip-tion at San Francisco General Hospital

these days.—
As Cynthia Laird reports on page four of this issue, the Department of Public Health has recently initiated a co-pay requirement for patients who use SFGH's pharmacy. By some standards, the payment is moderate – anywhere from \$2 to \$10. But it isn't moderate when you take a look at the overall effect on the people shelling out. the overall effect on the people shelling out the money, and compare the percentage of their net worth going into that co-payment, versus the percentage of Gates's net worth that went into his donation.

At last count, Gates's wealth was estimated at \$80 billion. According to our calculator, his \$1.5 million outlay consumed culator, his \$1.5 million outlay consumed .0001875 percent of his wealth, which is about the same as a \$2 outlay eats up when someone has assets of \$11,000. Anyone who has ever been to the SFGH pharmacy knows that most of its customers would consider themselves blessed to have a net worth (financially speaking, of course, since "net worth" does not equal "worth") of more than a few hundred dollars.

of more than a few hundred dollars.

The reason so many of our impoverished neighbors are donating chunks of their income to SFGH is, ostensibly, to close a budgetary gap. But it (again) seems obvious that the current aversion to what Big Money calls "soaking the rich" for the money necessary to run our society, has ensured that it is the poor who are getting soaked – and then hung out to dry.

When a billionaire coughs up a pittance that he will never need, that's a front page story. But *Time* magazine isn't likely to laud each case of poor San Franciscans giving the city money that they would otherwise use for luxuries like a Muni ride home. Pity, since each instance is a more compelling story, and more trenchant.

compelling story, and more trenchant.

This is a perfect example, by the way, of

why presidential candidate Steve Forbes is wrong when he says "flat taxation" is fair. For his system to work, every service of-fered by the government would have to be based on a percentage of the recipient's wealth. If a stamp costs a poor person, for instance, one one-hundredth of a day's wage, it would be fair to charge Gates the same rate. Not charge Gates the same rate. Not the same price, the same percentage. That's the way to make Porbes's idea truly fair, but of course it's also likely to lose his supporters – the very people who consider it "being soaked" to pay their fair share of rent on America.

While we're discussing presidential wannabes, it's worth reiterating our concerns about George W. Bush, the son of the erstwhile president. His recent comments about hate crimes and gay adoptions have confirmed our fears about him. The man either has faulty judgment or a deep, deep

Editorial

mean streak. In either case, he's not anyone we would want to see running this coun-try and making decisions that affect the lives of millions of hardworking gay and

lesbian Americans.
(But, before anyone accuses us of being too dismissive of the right-hand side of the legislative aisle, we urge them to read our new columnist, Dale Carpenter, on page 11. He expresses the view of a gay Republican, which is illustra-tive even when it fails to convince us. We hope you enjoy reading it, too.
Rail against what he says if you must,
but remember: it's better to know
what's going on the minds of
the GOP than to not know.)

Finally, since we're on the subject of elections, we hope everyone will take advantage of this year's unprecedented opportunity to vote for the Pride Parade marshals. It's your celebration. Don't waste your chance to be more involved than ever before. ▼









Week of pride in city of love

by Malcolm Lazin, co-chair/founder of PrideFest

he gay and lesbian civil rights move-ment is coming of age. And PrideFest America, to be held in Philadelphia from April 26 through May 2, illustrates

how much we've matured.

The nation's largest annual gay and lesbian symposium and festival, PrideFest '99 will bring together 17 national and 47 re-gional organizations plus major cultural institutions for a week of serious debate and analysis on subjects ranging from the workplace and the media to religion and the arts.
A discussion of this magnitude would not have been possible 10 years ago. More than half of the 64 organizations participating did not even exist then!

Included in the programming is a National Teen Panel; National Gay and Lesbian Leaders Symposium, in collaboration with National Public Radio; Gays and the Holocaust, in collaboration with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum; the Tom Stoddard National Role Model Award; the International Arts Award, in collaboration with national Arts Award, in Conadoration with the Philadelphia Museum of Art; and the National Workplace Symposium, in collab-oration with Human Rights Campaign, Out for Business, and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, a daylong program at which IBM will be honored with Pride-Fest America's Business Leadership Award.

PrideFest originated in 1993 as a regional event to highlight the organizations that serve us; to attack pernicious stereotypes by demonstrating the reality of our communi-

ty; and to undermine homophobia by pre-senting role models. PrideFest America, while continuing to embrace those goals, has also become the national venue for a civil rights movement, in all of its component parts, to come together annually to examine where we've been, where we are, and

where we need to go.

And while pride parades are still important, we need to move beyond that, as Jews, African-Americans, and feminists have done. The African-Americans can civil rights movement learned that while "black is beautiful" is important, a community needs to portant, a community needs to look inward and examine the substantive basis for pride and the reasons that African-Americans deserved respect. The same is true of the gay and lesbian civil rights movement, and the proof for that is reflected by the panoply of PrideFest America. **Guest Opinion**

Since Stonewall, we have grown in remarkable communal and organizational strength. Just look at the organizations that serve and reflect us - 64 of them at PrideFest America.

Examine our National Authors Panel

with this year's panelists of Patricia Nell Warren, Edmund White, and Andrew Sulli-Warren, Edmund White, and Andrew Sulli-van. Ten years ago, such an event would have been virtually unthinkable because there was so little "out" and quality work. Can you imagine trying to present a pro-gram about gay life 10 years ago? And yet today, as is reflected in our National Film Panel, there is an explosion of gay and les-bian cinematic artisit; expression. bian cinematic artistic expression

We have a National History Project. This year we are honoring Barbara Gittings, who in my humble opinion is our Rosa Parks. We are honoring her at and in collaboration with The Free Library of Philadelphia, the nation's first public library. We pay tribute to her because 30 years ago there was virtually nothing about us in the card catalogs of this nation. Barbara as a non-librarian led this nation. Barbara, as a non-librarian, led the charge at the annual meeting of the American Library Association. That led to a study group. And today our nation's li-braries are enriched with information by

and about us. William Gordon, executive director of the American Library Association, will pay tribute to Gittings. In this program, we see more than any

pride parade can ever demonstrate. We see our history. We learn that we stand on the shoulders of

others. We recognize the cost of invisibility. And we learn through this role model that one person can make a difference and that

one person can make a difference and that difference can be profound.

We invite you to PrideFest America because through this extraordinary seven-day substantive celebration, you will learn more about our community and yourself. In the process you will feel the yearlong real pride in being blessed as a gay and lesbian living during and (we hope) actively participating in our long sought dream of respected human dignity. ▼

For more information call (800) 990-FEST, e-mail info@pridefest.org, or log on to www.pridefest.org.

LETTERS

The irony of satire

In a irony of satire

I have been reading with great interest about the Archdiocese of San Francisco and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Maurice Healy, spokesperson for the Archdiocese, is positioning the church somewhere just right of Jerry Falwell in his holy war against the Sisters. It appears that the right wing of the church continues to push for erasing the division between itself and the state. The irony is that the Sisters may be better than the church at communicating Jesus's teachings of tolerance, compassion, service, and love. teachings of tolerance, compassion, service, and love. The church's menacing tone sounds not only homophobic, but borders on hateful.

phobic, but borders on hateful.

The satirical Sisters do have a reputation for guerrilla street theater – they follow in the legacy of the San Francisco Mime Troupe. Yet my progressive Catholic friends embrace the Sisters because beneath the ribald humor they share the same mission.

The right wing of the church, as represented by Mr. Healy and Archbishop William Levada, does not speak for all Catholics, all Christians, or indeed Americans of differing spiritual persuasions. The analysis of the same properties of the same

speak for all Catholics, all Christians, or indeed Americans of differing spiritual persuasions. The announcement that the Catholic League is boycotting San Francisco will not negatively impact the economy. After all, San Francisco is not on the top of the 'must see list' for most bigots and homophobes. This boycott and the other political activities of the church also remind us that they may no longer be entitled to their tax-exempt status.

Occasionally, the Sisters' ribald humor may offend
but so did Lenny Bruce's. However, I find
Mr. Healy and Archbishop Levada's attempts to twist the truth and to trivialize
the profound suffering of Jewish people

tempts to twist the truth and to trivialize the profound suffering of Jewish people (by declaring this group of street performers akin to "neo-nazis") far more offensive. (Did they forget that lying was a sin?) The church did not come to the aid of homosexuals as they were sent to their deaths in the Nazi camps. Long before the Catholic Church was pressured to put its immense resources to help people with AIDS, the Sisters, who were mostly poor, were trying to educate the public about the risks of sexually transmitted diseases and raise money for AIDS charities.

When the Catholic Church aligns itself with the extreme right wing of the political spectrum they make themselves less relevant as spiritual leaders. Jesus's work would be truly extended if Archbishop Levada and Maurice Healy attended Castro Street on Easter Sunday and prayed with the Sisters will be praying for Archbishop Levada and Maurice Healy.

Kenneth Caldwell Walnut Creek, CA

I-G-N-O-R-A-N-C-E

One evening recently I had a telephone call from a Catholic nun who I happen to be well acquainted with. She had two questions regarding the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to ask the gay community. First question – Why do the "Sisters" think it is amusing to publicly insult and hurt a group of women who have supported their causes, probably, more than any other religious group?

religious group?

My answer is that the Sisters are obviously igno My aliswer is that the observed are obviously ignizerant of the sacrifices that Catholic nuns make in order to help the sick and poor throughout the world. It is that kind of ignorance we often find when religious fanatics discuss homosexuality. It is the ignorance that leads to intolerance and violence.

that leads to intolerance and violence.

The second question – Why haven't more thoughtful and sensitive men and women in the gay community spoken out against the Sisters' ridiculous and unkind behavior? Their struggle for acceptance in society is not helped by the Sisters' vulgar, arrogant, and insensitive spectacle now in its 20th year.

I'll answer the second question based on personal feelings. I have not ever found the Sisters of Perpetual Induleration of the Amysing Many resoluted to see it.

feelings. I have not ever found the Sisters of Perpetu-al Indulgence to be amusing. Many people do, so it was just easier to "go with the flow" and not think about who might be hurt. Also, they do in fact raise money for good causes. Does the gay community need this method to raise money? Certainly not! What about political correctness? Shouldn't it apply to a relatively small and vulnerable group of women as well as to larger racial and ethnic groups? Very def-initely, res!

initely, yes!
So, dear Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, no one expects you to behave like grown men. Can't you just show some R-E-S-P-E-C-T? As for San Francisco's mayor and board of super-

visors, allowing and condoning the mockery of good people and their religious beliefs in public places re-flects very badly on the city's reputation for love and

Santa Rosa, CA

[We have to wonder, considering your obvious ignorance of the Sisters, why she asked you. May we ask, since you say the community "certainly" doesn't need to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars the way the Sisters do, how much you've raised in your respectful way?]

Holy weakness

As an active member of the Archdiocese of San As an active member of the Archdiocese of San Francisco I am curious as to whether Archbishop Lev-ada is going to allow William Donohue and his Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights to be the official spokesperson for the archbishop, or will the archbishop clarify that in fact the organization has nothing to do and is not affiliated with the archdio-

cese?
The ad that ran in the March 29 Chronicle was so inflammatory I fear that if the archbishop remains silent he may well have to take responsibility for violence that could very well be directed towards members of his diocese. By remaining silent, he could in fact encourage acts of violence similar to those directed towards Matthew Shepard, Joel Gerhart, and Brian Wilmes.

In this season of Holy Week it seems more necess

and to condemn the preaching of hate in the name of the Catholic Church.

Richard E. McNally San Francisco

Skirt the issue

Mailstrom

While we here had to deal with the controversy re-

While we here had to deal with the controversy regarding the Sister of Perpetual Indulgence and the Catholic Church the Vatican had its own small contretemps. It seems a drag queen (and founder of Wigstock) named Lady Bunny attempted to tour the Vatican in a tasteful but chaste zebra-print cocktail frock, garnering a lot of attention, and when the Swiss Guard found out who and what it was she was firmly ejected. Obviously the basic problem the church has is that it does not approve of men wearing long dresses in sumptuous fabrics. Oh – except of

es in sumptuous fabrics. Oh – except of course bishops, archbishops, cardinals, and the occasional pope

Rick Salinas

Weapons of mass distraction

Regarding the brouhaha surrounding the Easter Sunday party hosted by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence of San Francisco, I say party on! No one group owns the rights to a particular festival nor a street, even the Roman Catholic hierarchy in San Francisco. For administrators of the church, defense street, even the Roman Catholic hierarchy in San Francisco. For administrators of the church, defense weapons like aggression, violence, and excommunication have been successfully used to stop groups from disagreeing in the past. However, to be "credible" today, the church must get real about its own checkered history, especially regarding its treatment of any dissenting group. According to Pope John Paul II, gays and lesbians are subhuman and can only be worthy of grace if they have no intimate life with another human being. Pope John Paul II seems to understand little about the nature of human beings or their sexual diversity. He definitely dislikes being challenged or educated. Through the centuries, there have been many teachable moments where the church could have grown but chose not to: issues of clergy pedophilia, its own status as an entity filled with gay clergy yet rampant homophobia, its catastrophic policies on reproduction and the realities of overpopulation, its role in the genocide of native peoples in the Americas, its role in the Crusades, its second-class treatment of women and its extermination of heretics. Americas, its role in the Crusades, its second-class treatment of women and its extermination of heretics during the Inquisition. In the discussion regarding San Francisco church officials comparing the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to Nazis, no one mentioned that the then pope, Pius XII, said and did nothing during the properties of including the Complex Comple during the extermination of six million Jews, Gypsies disabled, Jehovah's Witnesses and homosexuals Those outraged Catholics who scream "Catholicbashing" at the first sign of criticism must realize that the church's more culpable actions in the past and present are based on historical events and are not personal attacks. Feelings of victimization overcome the potential for a more honest debate and real spiritual potential for a more nonest debate and real spiritual growth. Although there are millions of excellent Catholics, clergy and nuns who selflessly perform acts of mercy as Christ taught, the governing body is sadly leading the modern Church to irrelevancy, ridicule and in a few centuries, to a few pages in history books.

Damiano locovozzi Martinez, CA

'Son of Nun' one of fun?

Biblical scholars have observed that the Bible was not written to reveal anything but to conceal things. One item I uncovered recently was that the name "Joshua, son of Nun" was, almost certainly, a euphemism that can be translated as "Joshua, the fag-

If the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence want to call themselves "nuns" they have priority.

Bruce A. Hawkins Phoenix, AZ

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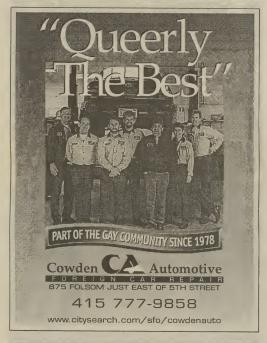
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No cutting!

No cutting!

The lesbian and gay community knows very well the importance of choice when it comes to controlling our bodies, particularly when such choices affect our health and sexuality. That's why we were gratified to see the B.A.R.'s report that the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) no longer condones infant circumcision. ["Academy of pediatrics no longer recommends circumcision," March 11.]

The most shameful part of the new AAP policy, however, is its promotion of the idea that "parents discuss the subject with their pediatrician and make an informed choice." Any "choice" about surgically altering a person's genitals when there is no medical need should remain with the individual. Because infants are too young to choose, parents should not be

fants are too young to choose, parents should not be permitted to usurp the child's fundamental rights to

bodily integrity and eventual self-determination.

Social customs that involve genital cutting of unconsenting male, female, and intersex children are the very first attack on our sexuality. They deserve closer scrutiny by and a more prominent place in the agenda of the lesbian/gay movement.

Tim Hammond, Executive Director Leland Traiman, President
Wayne Hampton, Vice President
Tom Morris, Secretary/Treasurer
National Organization to Halt the Abuse and Routine
Mutilation of Males

No Victorian

In the letter from Reid Condit ("Housing, boinking, and community," B.A.R. March 4, 1999) Mr. Condit refers to a "Victorian bathhouse such as has existed for years in downtown Portland, Oregon. A few friends and I are still trying to figure just what he is referring to. The couple we have downtown are anything but "Victorian." Old perhaps, Victorian no! If we are missing something, we'd like to know.

Ron Knapp Portland, OR

No smoking!

I read with absolute horror the letter written con-I read with absolute horror the letter written concerning the smoking in bars on Polk Street by Josie R. Lynn ["Ventilation, not legislation," March 11]. Particularly the erroneous statements that the exhaust from automobiles is more deadly than secondhand smoke, and that people that smoke live as long as people who do not smoke. I am in the health profession and it is a proven fact that service workers (both smokers and non-smokers) have a higher rate of lung cancer and other respiratory diseases than other professions. This is a direct result due to exposure to second hand smoke.

ond hand smoke.

As a non-smoker I resent the arrogance of smok As a non-smoker I resent the arrogance of smokers who feel that because I wish to drink in bars that in turn I must be subjected to breathing air filled with smoke pollutants. Bottom line, people – as of January 1997 it is against the law to smoke in bars. And the fact that Wayne Friday (a member of the police commission) is openly complaining that police are attempting to enforce this law is unbelievable. One wonders what the next law will be that Mr. Friday advices the police to impres!

wonders what the next law will be that Mr. Friday advises the police to ignore!

I am a gay man and I frequent the gays bars on Polk Street. And it is a sad statement of fact that the bars on Castro Street are trying to provide a smoke-free environment while the bars on Polk Street flagrantly violate the no smoking law.

Some bars like the Giraffe Video Lounge have gone

to great expense to provide a room for smokers to use

and yet the bartenders actually encourage their patrons not to use this room, and to continue to smoke
in the main bar. Two bartenders in particular flagrantly continue to smoke behind the bar themselves, and then sarcastically tell their customers that smoking is against the law. All of this occurs while they're

ing is against the law. All of this occurs while they're putting ashtrays out on the bar for their customers to use — completely ignoring the law. And this scene is repeated in practically every bar on Polk Street — the QT, Reflections, The White Swallow, etc.

Again, I repeat myself — it's against the law to smoke in bars. Please cooperate and be considerate of your fellow gay brothers and sisters. Let's all try to live complete, healthy lives — if you want to continue to smoke that is your choice, but don't make others pay for that choice by poisoning the air that they breathe.

Gilbert P. Sydney San Francisco

No comparison

In regards to your comparison of the two Mr. Marcuses [Out There, March 18]: Allow me to say that it is possible to love them both, albeit for different reait is possible to love them both, about for different rea-sons. Luke Ford may be wrong about a lot of things, and quite possibly the alter ego of Matt Drudge, but straight porn star, Mr. Marcus, is all that he says he is and more. Please sign me:

A fan.

Dick Clark San Francisco

No 'queers'

When leaders of the gay movement refer to our When leaders of the gay movement refer to our community as "queers," it is harmful. Attempts to take the sting away from this word, which has been used to put down gay people for decades, only serves to undermine our struggle to be treated with the dignity and respect we deserve and demand. After many years and a great deal of lobbying, gay has become universally accepted. "Queer" is an awkward and demeaning alternative to define our community.

I do not want to see the New York Times writing about the "queer" community, nor do I want to see President Clinton praising his "queer" nominee for ambassador to Luxembourg.

President Clinton praising his "queer" nominee for ambassador to Luxembourg..

As gay people, we constantly face powerful right wing forces that are working to undermine our self-respect. Referring to ourselves as "queers" confuses our straight supporters, and plays right into the hands of those who want to keep gays on the margins of society. Worst of all, this label, defined as strange, suspicious, or ludicrous, reinforces the negative identity that many of us work hard to overcome after first realizing our sexual orientation.

As a young activist in the 1970s, one of the first gay

As a young activist in the 1970s, one of the first gay rights slogans I learned was "gay is good." It still is.

Marc Paige Cranston, RI

No shouting!

No shouting!

Many in the queer community believe that those who commit brutal anti-gay murders should receive the death penalty, for a variety of reasons (justice, deterrent effect, etc.). Of course, this opinion is both valid and understandable. Others, such as myself, oppose the death penalty under all circumstances, and would strongly argue that putting murderers to death is not the way to attribute value to a murder victim's life. Of course, this opinion is equally valid.

It would seem that a debate on this subject, with both sides holding respect for those who disagree with them, is in order. However, Janice Van Cleve ["No more marching to Auschwitz," Mailstrom, March 25] seems uninterested in a civilized and intelligent discussion. Apparently, she would rather make personal attacks against those of us who oppose the death penalty, painting us as "liberal" (to use her out-dated, meaningless term) and elitist, and strongly implying that we don't care as much about these outrages as she does. That's simply not the case. We are no less appalled than she is, and we demand justice no less strongly. We simply don't believe the death penalty is justified under any circumstances.

Van Cleve needs to learn that she does her side no favors by throwing around hot-button phrases ("sacrifice our people," "marching dutifully to Auschwitz") and ad hominem attacks. Such arguing techniques are a sure sign that the person arguing has no facts or ideas behind their opinions, just emotion. Maybe she'd like to try again, and explain calmly and respectfully why she thinks that the death penalty does queers or anyone else any good. Then I or another death penalty opponent could respond to her, and we could have an intelligent discussion instead of a shouting match.

could have an intelligent discussion instead of a shouting match.

Steve Omlid

No Klaas

Janice Van Cleve is entitled to her medieval views on the death penalty but she has a hell of a nerve pro-moting Hitler analogies. Nazi Germany had the death penalty and it was enforced big time. When the right wing took back Nicaragua they tried to undo the San-dinistas abolition of the death penalty and bring back

dinistas abolition of the death penalty and bring back anti-gay legislation.

Every repressive state in the world has also had the death penalty along with anti-abortion, anti-gay, etc., laws. Take a look at the places that have abolished the death penalty, such as England, Sweden, Holland, France, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Costa Rica, etc., and then look at the backwaters that have it such as Singapore, Cambodia Swria Iran Iran Nigeria Serrica Serri

Singapore, Cambodia, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Serbia, the United States, ad nauseam.

I realize the strong emotional feelings by many in favor of the death penalty but those who oppose it in principle have to be consistent. Otherwise we'll be like Marc Klass, a nice cocktail party liberal I once shared the same employer with. Marc was "opposed" to the death penalty until the issue hit his life. You either think the state has a right to kill someone in cold blood or you don't. But don't accuse those of us who don't, of marching to Auschwitz. It's much easier to make a case that the opposite is true.

Michael P. Hardesty

[So when people change their opinions about, say, homosexuality because they know someone gay, that's good; when people change their minds about increased AIDS funding because they know someone with AIDS, that's good; but when people change their opinions about murderers because they know someone who's been murdered, that's bad. Is that right?]

Rookie supe's outburst earns her brickbats

by Wayne Friday

Mou, Mr. President, are not president of just one seg-ment of this community. You had an opportunity to bring peo-ple together on this issue; where was your leadership?" That was rookie Supervisor **Alicia Becerril**, appointed to her seat on the 11-member city legislative body just



Supervisor Alicia Becerril

over two months ago, giving Board President **Tom Ammiano** a Board President 10m Ammiano a public tongue-lashing at a packed meeting of the supervisors last week. Her outburst was apparent-ly prompted because she disap-proved of the way he handled the controversial street closing last Sunday of a single block of Castro Street for a 20th anniversary cele-bration by the Sixtare of Parnetwil bration by the Sisters of Perpetual Irrelevance ... err, Indulgence. Becerril, who few ever heard of

before her appointment to the board a couple of months ago (and few will likely hear of again (and few will likely hear of again after next year's district elections) giving Ammiano a lesson on "leadership?" Where I come from, taking a position on an issue and stayin' with it despite opposition organized by the powerful archdiocese of the city (as Ammiano did) says a hell of a lot more about "leadership" than Becerril's approach of first voting for the street closure and then flip-flopping two weeks later (after she got the political bejesus scared out of her by litical bejesus scared out of her by a few dozen phone calls from those within her faith, apparently complaining that she would sup-port such a plan in the first place.)

You, Supervisor Beceril, have no space preaching to anyone about what does or does not con-stitute "leadership." I went to two political type house parties over the weekend (in addition to the Sisters' birthday party on Castro, more on that subject later) and if I heard it once I heard the ques-tion a dozen times: Who does Becerril, with two months on the board, think she is? Incidentally, Becerril, who is an

attorney, told reporters after her tirade that "I like to respect peo-ple, and, if I don't" – and she ob-viously holds little for Ammiano –"I have a hard time showing it." -"I have a hard time snowing it.
Perhaps the Examiner put it best
when it headlined a front-page
story on her outburst last week
with "Becerril returns public nastiness to City Hall." Now we know
who will be the heir to Quentin
Kann the last purveyor of "hubble" **Kopp**, the last purveyor of "public nastiness" on the board of supes.

As for Ammiano, well, he mostly shrugged and said "I understand your frustration and your need to lash out" – after all, he used to be a teacher and is probably used to childish out-bursts – "and I offer you an olive branch." Most people would probably agree that Ammiano's response was an example of "leadership," something the rook-ie supervisor apparently has much to learn about.

No question on one thing, however. Whether they agreed with Ammiano's position on the overblown Sisters controversy or not, his detractors on the board not, his detractors on the board agreed with those who count him as an ally: the angry outburst from the newest appointed member was way out of line. As one well-known city official put it Sunday, "All she gained for herself was a guarantee that a serious opposition." tee that a serious opponent will surely emer when she tries to keep

her job next year."
As I said, I did attend the Sis-Castro **Our Man Friday** Street celebra-tion on Sun-

day. To say I never was a fan of the Sisters and their antics is an understatement, but Sunday really wasn't about them and their silly, self-promoting, sometimes embarrassing "theatre" (sic). Sunday, was, in my mind at least, about First Amendment rights, and I wasn't going to let right wing, gay-hating Archbishop William Leva-da (whom most Portland resi-dents were happy to see leave that city) keep me away no matter how offensive some parts of it might have been. Most of the city's gay community has probably seen enough of the Sisters of Perpetual Irrelevance (20 years is a long time of these campy drags in nun's habits) and have grown tired of the act, but it was not the Sisters who made the celebration: it was the Catholic Church, the Arch-bishop, and the church newspaper,

olsnop, and the church newspaper, Catholic San Francisco. One last note on the subject: Supervisor Mark Leno easily bested that anti-gay representa-tive from the Catholic Church on last Thursday's nationally-televised NBC *Today* show. In fact, Leno looked every bit as good as the handsome **Matt Lauer**, who interviewed him.

Politics and people

East Bay Dems are Green with East Bay Dems are Green with envy. It's pretty clear that former Oakland mayor Elihu (Eli Who?) Harris should have been attending to some would-be constituents in the East Bay's 16th Assembly District, instead of hiring an office staff in Sacramento and arranging compilities assignments those few committee assignments, those few days before the election. Green Party activist Audie Bock spent only \$34,000 and won that seat, while the well-known Democrat Harris dropped more than \$500,000 and had the official backing of the state party machin-ery. The 16th District covers most of Oakland, is 65 percent Democof Oakland, is 65 percent Democratic, and has always sent a Democrat to Sacramento. Party members across the state are still scratching their heads trying to figure out how a man who just completed eight years as Oakland's mayor, after being the assemblyman from that very district for a dozen years, blew it so badly. No question: the election of the unknown, minor party candidate known, minor party candidate over the machine Democrat was a clear referendum on Harris, who was a totally unproductive mayor for the past eight years and then an

arrogant candidate who seemed to believe all he needed was the bless-ing of his party. Now, with **Jerry** Brown as mayor and Bock as as-semblywoman, things should get pretty interesting in Oakland very soon. (Incidentally, Claude Ever-hart shouldn't be expecting too many young, energetic political hopefuls to be beating a path to his door for a long time – unless perhaps they want to learn how *not* to run a political campaign.).

Some at San Francisco City

Hall are saying that Har-ris's embarrassing de-feat last week, and the complete collapse of the Democratic machine there, could spell trouble for Mayor Willie Brown.

His Honor was one of those who talked Harris

bly again, but I doubt he's losing much sleep over it. Harris's unex-pected loss, incidentally, means there are no African-Americans from Northern California in the

trom Northern California in the Legislature.
South Bay Democrats are working hard to get Assembly-woman Elaine Alquist (Santa Clara) to run as their candidate against incumbent Representative Tom Campbell, a onetime moderate Republican who was among those weignt to invested President those voting to impeach President Bill Clinton.

First Governor Gray Davis appointed Jeremy Hallisey to run the S.F. governor's office; last week Davis appointed his father, prominent San Francisco attorney Jeremiah Hallisey, to the powerful California Transporta-tion Commission. The elder Mr. Hallisey, long a power in Democ-ratic party politics, has served as a University of California regent and California State University trustee; he was co-chair of Gover nor-elect Davis's transition team

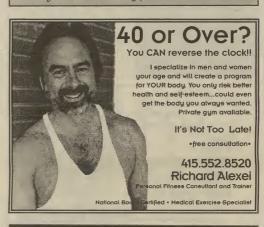
New York's Reverend Al Sharpton, the controversial civil rights and political activists, will be in San Francisco April 18 and will speak at the 10:30 a.m. ser-vice at the Macedonia Missionary Rantist Church (2135 Sutter Baptist Church (2135 Sutter Street; 346-1154 for info).

National Republicans are re-portedly worried sick that former Ku Klux Klan wizard **David Duke** could actually win their party's nomination in that crowded May 1 special election in the Louisiana First Congressional District; Duke already has the endorsement of the racist Council of Conservative Cit-izens (the group that Senate Ma-jority Leader **Trent Lott** and Georjority Leader Trent Lott and Georgia Representative Bob Barr – both Republicans – have addressed). Maybe a little help from the rest of the GOP White Boys Club could help put the racist Duke over the top in the GOP district, and let's see how George W. Bush runs with that may in the 2000 elections.

that guy in the 2000 elections.

Our Quote of the Week is from state Senator **John Burton**, whom Supe Becerril says told her to "do whatever you want from the gut" whatever you want from the gut" when expressing yourself after her recent appointment, as her reason for shooting her mouth off board President Ammiano. Burton said, "That's the advice I give everyone—go with your gut—but that doesn't mean you take a dump in the middle of the board of supervisors meeting." ▼





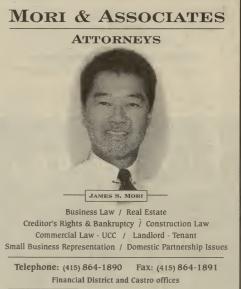
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Amnesty very international



he first international meeting of Amnesty International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) human rights activists was held in London March 26-29. In all, 47 activists from 25 different countries came together representing Amnesty International LGBT groups in all five continuous Delegates broke into spontaneous applause on the arrival of the Albanian representative who succeeded attending, despite the war in Kosovo and interruption in Balkan travel, by making a 1000-mile detour.

Women's wear gaily

by David Bianco

This month in gay history: Rudi Gernreich, co-founder of the Mat-tachine Society and designer of the topless bathing suit, dies in Los Angeles, April 21, 1985.

udi Gernreich secured a place for himself in fashion history as the designer of one of the most controversial pieces of women's wear, the topless bathing suit. But in gay history books he'll also be remembered as a co-founder of the Mattachine Society, the early gay rights orga-

Born in Vienna in 1922, Gernreich showed early artistic talent. He was inartistic talent. He was introduced to fashion design by his aunt, who owned a dress shop where Gernreich spent many hours after school sketching clothes and learning about fabric. When he was 12, a designer saw his sketches and offered him an apprenticeship in Lond **Past Out**

him an apprenticeship in London, but his mother vetoed the move. In 1938, Gernreich and his

mother left Austria, along with thousands of other Jews fleeing Hitler. The Gernreichs had friends Hitler. The Gernreichs had friends in Los Angeles and decided to settle there. Living near Hollywood was a dream come true for the teenage boy. "I'd seen movies and read American magazines and suddenly I was there!" Gernreich later said. Gernreich quickly became fluert in English and seen. came fluent in English and eventually spoke it without a trace of accent. In 1943, he obtained American citizenship.

Gernreich put himself through

art school by running errands for various advertising agencies. After graduation, his first job was as a

For further reading:

Luther, Marylou. "Topless Creator Gernreich Dies." Los Angeles Times (April 22, 1985).

Steinem, Gloria. "Gernre-ich's Progress; Or, Eve Un-bound." New York Times Magazine (January 31,

Timmons, Stuart. The Trou-ble with Harry Hay (Alyson,

costume sketch artist for lesbian designer Edith Head at RKO Stu-dios, but he "hated every minute." A dance performance by Martha Graham inspired him to make a career shift, and he joined the career shift, and he joined the Lester Horton Dance Troupe. Dance, he later observed, influenced his fashion designs: "[It] made me aware of what clothes do to the rest of the body – to the hands and feet and head."

By the late 1940s, Gernreich recognized his limited dancing select and returned to designing.

talent and returned to designing. Some of his first designs were costumes for his former dance troupe. At the Horton Studio in 1950, he met Harry Hay, whose young daughter took dance classes there. Hay later re-called that Gernreich stared

at him from across the studio. They made a date for dinner, and "we fell madly in love, of course," Hay later recalled. Gernreich had had only had short flings with men before Hay. Because the designer still lived with his mother and Hay was married, they car-

signer still lived with his mother and Hay was married, they car-ried on their romance at hotels and in friends' apartments. Hay, a Communist organizer,

Hay, a Communist organizer, had written a prospectus for a homosexual rights group and was looking for people to help him start it. He showed the plan to Gernreich, who told him, "This is the most dangerous thing I have ever read – and I'm with you 100 percent."

Together with two other men, Hay and Gernreich started the Mattachine Society, the first long-standing gay rights organization. They distributed flyers at gay bars and in the gay areas of beaches, trying to recruit members. Meetings were held in secret at members' homes. "The whole group was fearful," Martin Block, an early member, said, "although I think Rudi was more so ... because he was an immigrant."

Gernreich and Hay had been lovers for a year when Gernreich temporarily moyed to New York Together with two other men

temporarily moved to New York for a design opportunity. The dis-tance hurt their relationship, and when Gernreich returned to Cali-fornia, the two broke up. Hay speculated that Gernreich's career ambitions clashed too much with Hay's consuming gay political work. Gernreich left the Matta-chine, and Hay honored the group's secrecy pledge by keeping mum about Gernreich's involvement until after the designer's

Gernreich's career soon soared with a line of simple, comfortable women's clothing. In 1952, his "nothing-inside-but-you" bathing suit (without a molded, built-in bra) was both controversial and sought after. It was only a short step to the fashion item that made step to the fashion item that made him famous. In an interview in 1962 in Women's Wear Daily, Gernreich observed that some women on the Riviera wore only bikini bottoms. Soon topless bathing suits would be the rage, he said. WWD printed his prediction, and, concerned that another designer would scoop him, Gernreich produced the topless suit himself. Photographs of the first topless bathing suit, modeled from behind, appeared in Look magazine in June 1964 and launched Gernreich into overnight celebrity.

Gernreich's design was de-

overnight celebrity.

Gernreich's design was denounced by everyone from the Vatican to the Kremlin. In St. Tropez, officials warned that wearing the suit would bring "legal repercussions," and helicopters patrolled the beaches for offenders Many store refused to offenders. Many stores refused to carry the suit, but a total of 3,000 topless suits were sold by rep-utable establishments like B. Alt-man and Lord & Taylor.

man and Lord & Taylor.

The uproar over the topless bathing suit overshadowed Gernreich's other designs, which included the first miniskirts. In 1967, he was inducted into the Fashion Hall of Fame. Throughout his career, Gernreich continued to shock the fashion world—be was the first to use models with he was the first to use models with shaved heads, for example – and to advocate for freedom in cloth-

Gernreich's gay identity was not publicly revealed until his death from lung cancer in 1985. death from lung cancer in 1985. At that time the American Civil Liberties Union announced that Gernreich and his lover, Dr. Oreste Pucciani, had endowed a trust for litigation and education on lesbian and gay rights. ▼

David Bianco, M.A. is the author of Modern Jewish History for Everyone. He can be reached care of this publication or at DaveBianco@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.gay.com

A plea for political diversity

by Dale Carpenter

he reaction of many gay left leaders to the emergence of gay conservatives from the closet has been a mixture of mis-understanding ("They're intoler-ant"), condescension ("They ant"), condescension ("They don't understand social change"), bemusement ("They're oxymorons"), and pity or contempt ("They're self-hating").

Gay conservatives have long lived in a double closet. Our gay friends shunned conservatives; our conservative friends shunned gays. We were anathema to both

gays. We were anathema to both sides because we upset settled expectations about what it means to be gay. We often found the pro-gay left and the anti-gay right in a curious alliance to shut us up.

curious alliance to shut us up.

Left-wing activism has occupied the field of gay politics at
least since Stonewall. The left has
dominated the columns of gay
newspapers and magazines, controlled the content of gay radio
shows and public-access television programs and monopolized sion programs, and monopolized the leadership of our political or-ganizations. To be gay has been to be left-wing. Of course, this stereotype of gay politics has al-ways been a lie, like the lie that we are all pedophiles or that we all have great taste in interior design. It's easy to see why America be-lieved the lie. For far too long, the only people who were willing to advocate gay civil rights were self-styled progressives. But there have always been

conservatives in our midst. The difference now is that we are coming out of the closet in large numbers, thanks in part to the advances in legal equality won almost entirely by the gay left over the past 30 years. In a sense, the gay left has created a beast it can no longer control, a burgeoning movement of disparate elements and ideas. The "out" gay popula-tion today is more diverse, ideo-logically and otherwise, than ever before. That trend will accelerate.

The political left, which has been preaching the value of diver-

sity for some time, should wel-come this development. It is good for the whole movement. It is good "externally" because it erodes the uninformed straight American's facile notion that gays are one-dimensional. Also, gay conservatives subvert prejudice in the very place it is breeding most hotly today: on the polit-

ical right, and especially in the Republican Party. Our greater diversity is also beneficial "in-ternally" because gay polit-ical dialogue will at last ring with a real clash of ideas and priorities.
One test of the value **OutRight**

one test of the value of an idea is its power to get itself accepted in the marketplace of ideas. The emergence of gay conservatives makes our "market" a more competitive one. Our decisions will be better be-cause they will be more fully in-formed. Further, we will finally be formed. Further, we will finally be able to tap a huge reservoir of previously unused energy, ideas, and talent: The movement will need those assets if it is truly to reach every corner of the nation. The old "progressive coalition," by itself, will not get us to the next plateau. The price of admission to the gay civil rights movement should be that you are passionately committed to legal and social equality for gays. It should not be that you must oppose the death penalty, or that you support higher taxes to pay for more social programs, or

pay for more social programs, or that you would love to see the Sandinistas run Nicaragua again, or that you subscribe to any other

leftist cause.

Most of all, gay conservatives can no longer be dismissed as oxymorons, or that old favorite, "self-hating." We are too numerous, too self-confident, too compited to gay legal and social. mitted to gay legal and social equality, to be sent away with a wave of the hand. It is arrogance defined to equate an idea you think flawed with some deep-seated flaw (like "self-hatred") in the person arguing for that idea. Gay conservatives have not fought out of one closet only to be shoved into another by a new breed of intelerance measurered. breed of intolerance masquerading as a defense of the traditional gay civil rights movement.

The gay left must come to a painful realization: Liberalism is

not another, as yet latent, component of the gay chromosome. You may be born with a sexual orientation; but the lessons of life and friends

lessons of life and friends and education give you this or that political orientation. Like straight Americans, we each learn those lessons differently, depending on the significance we extract from our experiences and the importance we place on the many contending periences and the importance we place on the many contending and complex values that comprise a person's view of the world. That we should all arrive at the same place is not likely or even desir-able; that we should respect each other as we work for real freedom

other as we work for real freedom is essential.

The movement for gay civil rights has been sensitive to the need for every kind of diversity – race, sex, age, class, etc. – except one; political diversity. The board of the leading gay civil rights organization in my home state of Texas, for exin my home state of Texas, for example, has long had few or no Republicans. The same is true of the boards of many of our local, state, boards of many of our local, state, and national political organiza-tions. Those organizations will never represent the true diversity – and therefore the promise – of gay America until they do. ▼

Dale Carpenter, an attorney, is a national board member of the Log Cabin Republicans. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com.

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Saturday, April 17 John O'Connell High School

41st Avenue & Ortega

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call 923-2473.

APRIL POLITICALENDAR

listed in order of each group's first event this month:

HIV Prevention Planning Council April 8; 3-6 p.m. Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin at Geary Call (415) 554-9000

Queer Latino Political Action Committee (QL PAC) April 8; 6:30 p.m. Women's Building 3543 18th Street Info: (415) 648-3702

Board of Supervisors April 12, 19, 26; 2 p.m. City Hall, 2nd Floor 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Call (415) 554-5184

Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club April 12; 7-9 p.m. MCC-San Francisco Info: (415) 522-3809

ACT UP/Golden Gate April 13, 20, 27; 7:30 p.m. 592 Castro Street Info: (415) 252-9200

Meetings of interest to the Oakland HIV Health Services community throughout April, Planning Council Planning Council
April 14; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Council's PWA Committee
April 16; 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Location/info: (510) 763-9711

Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA) April 15; 7 p.m. 507-B Divisadero Info: (415) 749-1202

Alexander Hamilton American Legion Post 448 (LGBT Veterans) April 15; 7 p.m. Veteran's War Memorial Bldg. 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 202 Info: (415) 431-1413

SF Health Commission April 20; 3 p.m. SF Department of Public Health 101 Grove Street, Room 300 Info: (415) 554-2666

LGBT Advisory Committee SF Human Rights Commission April 20; 5:30 p.m. 25 Van Ness Avenue Info: (415) 252-2500

Ambiente Latino Democratic Club April 21; 6:30-8:30 p.m. Location/info: (415) 239-6612

LGBT Community Center Project Board April 21; 7 p.m. 1748 Market Street Info: (415) 437-2257

HIV Health Services Planning Council April 26; 4:30 p.m. New location: City Hall, Room 201 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Committee meetings/info: (415) 554-9136

Call for information about these April meetings:

SF Youth Commission New office at City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Call (415) 554-6446

Harvey Milk Democratic Club Info: (415) 751-5364

LGBT Pride Celebration Committee Info: (415) 864-3733

Log Cabin Republican Club Info: (415) 522-2944

Out on the Island Alameda's gay action group Location/info: (510) 337-1300

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Guy with knife carves up Feast

by Mark Norby and Ron McGlashan

riday, April 2, 1 a.m., The Power Exchange, 74 Otis Street: The SFPD reports that a rowdy raucous broke out inside The Power Exchange during Friday's Feast II party. Two suspects apparently broke out into a violent argument which reinto a violent argument which resulted in one suspect pulling a knife from his pocket and brandishing it before the other suspect. The fight carried out onto adjacent Gough Street, involving several other partygoers who joined the brawl. An unidentified person called police from a pay phone and 14 SFPD squad cars appeared on the scene within minutes. As the throngs of police officers arrived, the brawl dispersed and several individuals were reported running from the were reported running from the scene. However, the two main suspects were apprehended, handcuffed, and transported to the SFPD Southern Station. The knife was not found and the sus-pects were released due to lack of evidence. Police wish to inform the public that anyone seen running from a crime scene is con sidered a suspect and could be charged in such incidents.

Tranny trashes hotel, boyfriend

Friday, April 2, 12 a.m., near 6th and Folsom streets. The man-agement at a South of Market residential hotel reports that the evening was interrupted by the sounds of screams and breaking glass. A transgendered resident subsequently identified as the suspect, apparently discovered that her boyfriend had been two-timing her. The suspect beat the victim, trashed the room, and began hurling clothes, furniture, bottles, and various accessories from the fifth-floor window. As police arrived and exited their police arrived and exited their squad car, the officers had to dodge flying "bits and pieces and furniture," according to the report made by SFPD. The victim chose not to press charges, but the sus-pect was transported to San Fran-cisco General Hospital because of an asthma attack that she suffered in the midst of her violent fit

Punch and a hug: \$200

Thursday, April 1, 2:30 a.m., 2300 block of Market Street:
While walking down the 2300 block of Market Street, a man was approached by a female who asked him "How are you doing?" Before he had a chance to answer her, the woman punched him in the face and **Punishment** victim fell to knees on the

sidewalk. A second female then wrapped her arms around him from behind in "a bear-hug fashion" while a third suspect, a male, snatched his wallet from his back pocket. The wallet contained \$200 and a couple of credit cards. All three were last seen running eastthree were last seen running east-bound on Market Street. The vic-tim staggered to Orphan Andy's diner and called the police, but of-ficers were unsuccessful in finding the trio. The suspects were later described as an Asian female, 22 years old, 5 feet 5 inches tall, 115 pounds, wearing a green jacket; a pounds, wearing a green jacket; a black female, 22 years old, 5 feet 4 inches tall, 110 pounds, wearing a dark blue sweatshirt and blue jeans; and an Hispanic male, 22 years old, 5 feet 5 inches tall, 125 pounds. If seen, the public is

asked to contact the San Francisco Patrol Special Police at the num-bers listed below.

Anti-government spy in the Castro

Thursday, April 1, 4 a.m., 17th and Castro streets: Early Thursday morning a "noticeably crazed man" approached a customer of man' approached a customer of Orphan Andy's diner who was standing outside the restaurant and subjected the victim to "screaming paranoid accusations and a physical attack," according to the San Francisco Patrol Special Police. The suspect began yelling "You're a government

yelling "You're a government spy sent to kill me!" As the victim started to back away from the suspect, the screaming man grabbed him, pushed him to the ground, and forcibly sat on him while yelling for someone to call the police, as he wanted to make a citizen's arrest on the victim for being a spy against the

tim for being a spy against the U.S. government. Responding officers arrested the suspect and charged him with assault.

Poppin' pills and gulping GHB

Crime &

guiping GHB

Friday, April 3, 2:30 a.m., 9th and Folsom streets: A man was caught in a side alley possessing a small quantity of ecstasy and GHB, two popular party drugs. The suspect told officers that he had been "out partying" and had consumed both of the drugs at once. The remainder of the drugs in his possession were confiscated and the GHB was poured out onto the street. The man was cited for possessing controlled substances and then released. stances and then released.

Polk Street gays harassed at Polk Street gay bars

Several Polk Street gay bars have reported to the SFPD the increasing occurrence of anti-gay language and insults being directed at their gay clientele. One Polk bar reported that a patron at-tacked the bartender "because he tacked the bartender "because he is gay and because the clients of the club are gay," according to the police report. Bartenders and bouncers in the area are advised to call the police at the first sign of a problem. Patrons are asked to call 911 in the event of a threatening inclination and are warned to ing incident, and are warned to avoid escalating a potentially vio-lent situation by avoiding the threatening individual.

Calling all johns

There has been a total of 15 men and women arrested on prostitution charges over the last week in the Polk and Tenderloin districts, and a total of 25 johns booked who will be required to attend a new "John School," which is being hosted by the District At-torney's office. Every john attend-ing the school will be required to pay a \$500 fee to attend. Those who do not pay the fee and do not attend will be issued a warrant for

This column is brought to you as a public service of the SFPD Office of Public Affairs and the men and women of the SFPD who protect and serve you. For information call the office at (415) 553-1651, or Ron at (415) 776-9399; or page him at (415) 201-6004. The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.



{ A DISCUSSION ABOUT LIVE-WORK. NO. 1 IN A SERIES }

Lies that disappear like a fist when you open your band.



OW LONG IS THE SHELF LIFE OF A LIE? The San Francisco Residential Builders have recently been the subject of a barrage of Bold Faced Lies in the alternative media about new "live-work" housing units. The spore of the lie is that our members have been evicting tenants and businesses South of Market to build new "live-work" units. This is a bold-faced, unmitigated falsehood.

No member of the Residential Builders has evicted. or "displaced," a single tenant or business in any of the more than 1000 units of new housing we have built on abandoned industrial sites South of Market since such construction began back in 1996.

No tenant has been evicted. No business has been evicted. Never.

A wise person once said that a lie is like counterfeit money many people who would not coin

it, circulate it without qualms.
The lie about the Residential Builders Association "evicting" tenants and businesses South of Market has been widely repeated in the press and by the chatter mouths on talk radio. Such a lie is a fist in the face of our hard-

working membership.

We are stating God's truth
against a fist full of lies —that we have evicted no one for "live-work" while building desperately

needed new housing.

We cannot open the tightly clenched fists of our detractors. But we can, and will, bare our

On this page we freely dis-close the addresses of sites where we have built live-work units South of Market since 1996.

Anyone can go to the Planning Department, the Rent Stabilization Board or the Sheriff's Department and confirm that there have been no evictions at these sites. The reckless suggestions by opponents of live-work that we have been evicting tenants or displacing

existing businesses are bold damnable lies.

City records show that the condition of these sites—if they were not already vacant lots-were vacant, earthquake or fire-damaged structures, empty warehousjunkyards, long abandoned railway tracks or temporary parking lots. Many of these vacant sites have been breeding grounds for crime that South of Market neighbors have complained about

for years.

What San Francisco's planning bureaucracy calls "live-work" is loft living type construction built on the sites of abandoned industrial-use buildings which has added successfully, without controversy, to the housing stock in cities from New York to Oakland. Mayor Jerry Brown is proposing 10,000 new live-work sites for Oakland: only the Bay Guardian thinks that is a bad idea

The second lie propagated by the no-growth ideologues who are attacking live -work is that the new housing is driving small business out of town, particularly in the South of Market. Statistics clearly show otherwise.

The City's gross receipts and payroll taxes are substantially higher than ever before. And the most dramatic increase in new

WE OPEN OUR HAND:

Below are the addresses where the Residential Builders have built live-work units in the South of Market between 1996 and early Market between 1996 and early 1999. City records in the Planning Department, Rent Stabilization Board and the Sheriff's Department will confirm that there have been no evictions at these sites

1375 Harrison St. 249 Shipley St. 735 Tennessee 1800 Bryant St. 701 Pennsylvania 695 Pennsylvania 3000 18th St. 1020 Mariposa 2080 3rd St. 2011 - 3rd St. 755 Florida 23rd Minnesota 49 Missouri St. 325 Welsh St. 74 Brady St. 50 Lucerne St. 340 Rich St. 81 Langton 56 Moss St. 139 Welsh St. 49 Missouri St. 999 16th St. 1099 23rd St. 635 Tennessee 615 Tennessee 2501 Harrison St. 2875 21st St.

675 Tennessee 1145 Howard St. 159 Russ 2170 Harrison St. 3118 18th St. 786 Minna St. 260 Clara St. 356 - 12th St. 21 Isis 358 - 12th St. 8 Bernice 2068 Third St. 2030 Third St. 655 Tennessee 638 Minna St. 3121 20th St. 74 Brady St. 965 Folsom St. 21 Stillman St. 971 Howard St. 1220 Folsom St. 1325 Indiana St. 1310 Minnesota 633 Hampshire

small businesses is in the City's South of Market where start-up high tech firms, some from ingin teeri limits, some from Silicon Valley, have given the area the nickname "Cyber-Gulch." Live-work is providing satellite office housing for employees of these new small businesses who would otherwise bid into the present compacted, over-priced city housing market,

further raising prices for all.

The South of Market in San Francisco is the only area zoned to allow residential-mixed residential business-at-home use. Live work units fit like the stamp

to the envelope, the high-tech lifestyle requirements of the new high-tech generation, where home-offices are wired into larger office complexes. Live-work units are built to accommodate the needs of the wired generation, and the wired generation is moving into the South of Market because live-work units are there. For once, by zoning this area to accommodate live-work, the City did something right. But the no-growth grouches are trying to

wreck it by lying about the facts.
Think about it. Live-work

works for San Francisco. Meanwhile rents continue to increase because there is a minimum of growth in the San Francisco housing stock. Home prices and apartment rents are so hideously high here because the city put the breaks on building new housing two decades ago.
The policy of down-zoning to
curb new apartment construction came in the era of the freeway revolt when San Francisco didn't want growth. The City nonetheless grew during the past quarter century with little new housing to keep pace. Now we are paying the price, such as \$1800 and up a month for a one-bedroom apartment and junior two bedroom homes selling for as much as half a million dollars.

The net result of this no growth policy is that San Francisco's housing prices are the highest in the nation.

The people who created the current housing crisis by championing no-growth policies are now opposing live-work development even in abandoned industrial areas.

The policies of the no-growth ideologues have created a stranglehold on housing and strained, often to the breaking point, the quality of life of San Francisco citizens who simply cannot afford to live here anymore.

The time has come for a reckoning. We move to open the discussion by laying the truth on the table.





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Faerie Clara Voyant and Sister Vicious Power-Hungry Bitch at last Sunday's 20th anniversary party

Sisters' Easter party draws big crowd, few problems

by Cynthia Laird

he sun was shining and Cas-tro Street was full as an esti-mated crowd of 5,000 to to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Sisters of Perpetual Indugence. The Sisters capped over two weeks of controversy set off by the weeks of controversy set of toy the Roman Catholic Archdiocese with a fun-filled afternoon with plenty of drag queens and others decked out in big hair, big bonnets, gowns, and costumes. Police degowins, and costinies. Foliate de-tained two men during the event, one on a psychiatric hold and one on charges of assault for taking a swing at – and missing – another male partygoer. Some of the Sisters looked re-

splendent in their Easter attire, while others wore their traditionwhile others wore their traditional black nun habits. Several people dressed as Tinky Winky, or wore the tiny purple triangle-topped toy on their head. The Teletubby was "outed" in February by the Reverend Jerry Falwell.

Over the years, the Sisters have donned mock nun habits and staged street theater events that

staged street theater events that have upset some and thrilled others, but through it all the group of predominantly gay men has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity and spread a message of safer sex as a response to the AIDS epidemic. The good works done by the Sisters were overshadowed last

month when the Catholic Church

strongly opposed a vote by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to close off one block of Castro Street for the celebration. After a guest commentary in Catholic San Fran-cisco likened the Sisters to neo-Nazis, phone calls and e-mails poured into City Hall. Initially,

poured into City Hall. Initially, many of the communications were from angry Catholics but as the controversy kept growing, supporters of the Sisters also spoke up. Rookie Supervisor Alicia Beceril stirred things up when she proposed the Sisters change the date of their street party; that idea went down to defeat at a packed Board of Supervisors meeting March 29, when the board refused to rescind the street closure perto rescind the street closure per-mit on a 9 to 2 vote. Joining Be-cerril on the losing side was Su-pervisor Amos Brown, a Baptist

minister. The weeks of almost daily coverage of the issue by the local and national media guaranteed lots of free publicity for the Sisters' street party and the result was in evidence Sunday when throngs of people poured onto Castro Street throughout the day.

Reconciliation a priority

There also seems to be a spirit of reconciliation between the Sis-ters and the archdiocese; last Friday, April 2 it was reported that Archbishop William Levada is willing to meet with the Sisters in the hopes of working out their differences. Levada objected to the Sisters throwing a street party on

the holiest day of the Christian

calendar.

Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano spoke of that reconciliation during his opening remarks at the street party. "The message of Easter is to resurrect that spirit of coexistence. There's been somewhat of a tear in the seamless fabric. I know the Sisters and I make reconciliation a prior-

ity," said Ammiano. Supervisor Leslie Katz encouraged the crowd to acknowledge the financial contributions made by the Sisters over the years. "Apby the Sisters over the years. Applied the First Amendment so we can all be out here today expressing our diverse opinions." Katz said. "The winner in all of this is our Constitution."

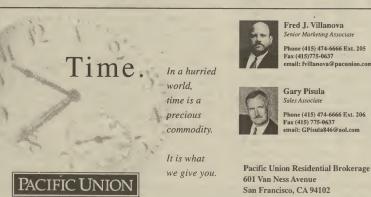
Supervisor Mark Leno also

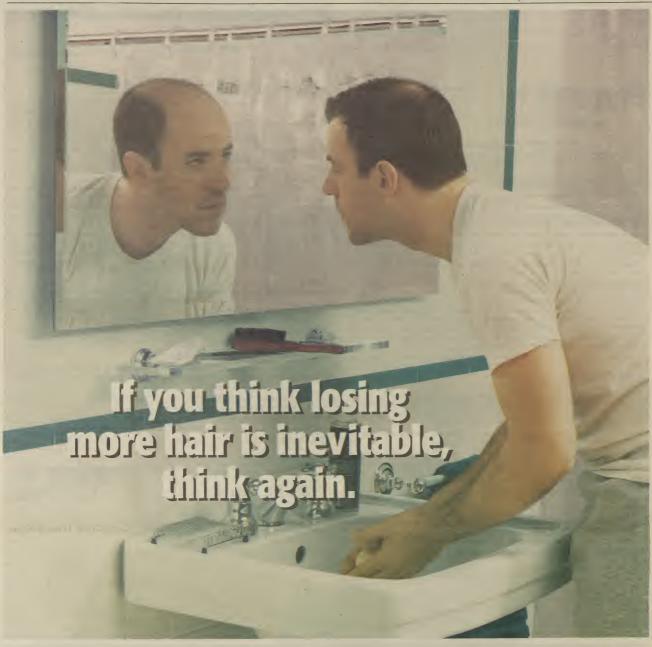
spoke, denouncing the Knight initiative, which the Catholic Church supports. State Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale) has qualified a measure for the March 2000 bal-

a measure for the March 2000 ballot where state voters will decide
whether to amend the Family
Code to state that marriage is between one man and one woman.
Bars along Castro Street were
doing a brisk business and some,
such as Twin Peaks, provided a
great opportunity for peoplewatching through its huge windows. Inside, the mood was festive
and most of the patrons had only and most of the patrons had only praise for the Sisters and contempt for the Catholic Church.

"I can't believe the Catholic

Church didn't move Easter," one man said sarcastically.





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(See accompanying Patient Information for details.) PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more to see visible results. PROPECIA may not regrow all your hair. And if you stop using this product, you will gradually lose the hair you have gained. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works for recession at the temporal areas. If you haven't seen results after 12 months of using PROPECIA, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit.

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. A very small number of men experienced certain side effects, such as: less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects were reversible and went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men (58%) who continued taking PROPECIA.

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PROPECIA** is for use by MEN ONLY.

Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prascription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of carrieful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medicagin and at requise Indextune.

What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area.

PROPECIA is for use by MEN ONLY and should NOT be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s.

Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. A Il men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gele*** Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or halding areas of the scalp. To most melay, ritor continued as a familiance of scalar plants, religing to min min in unumal across or use a Ment taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generall you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA with the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do not take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will not work faster or better if you take it more than once a day

Who should NOT take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in MEN ONLY and should not be taken by women
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy

- Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:
- must not use PROPECIA
- should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

The active ingredient in PROPECIA is also used by older men at a five-times higher dose to treat enlargement of the prostate. Some of these men reported other side effects, including problems with ejaculation, breast swelling and/or tenderness and allergic reactions such as lip swelling and rash. In clinical studies with PROPECIA, these side effects occurred as often in men taking placebo as in those taking PROPECIA.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual effects.

■ PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provide that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

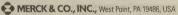
Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keen PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER

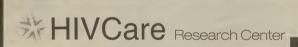
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Parade Marshals

◄ page 1

the community." Witherington said someone nominated Cameron because "he remem-bered that he got a whistle from

her once."
Right Reverend Otis Charles, Right Reverend VIIs Charles, who was the first bishop of any mainstream church to publicly come out as a gay man. Charles served as executive director of Oasis/California, the gay and lesbian ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of California and is currently interim dean of the school for deainterim dean of the school for dea-cons serving Northern California, bishop-in-residence at St. John the Evangelist Church in San Francis-co, and editor of Millennium3, an online and print publication sent to 13,600 Episcopal clergy. Transgender activist Tamara

Ching, who's a pro bono program director of the Southeast Asian Transgender AIDS Prevention Iransgender AIDS Prevention Project. Ching organized the first transgender advisory committee to the San Francisco Department of Public Health's AIDS Office and has served as a consultant to numerous AIDS service organizations. She was a key advisor to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Advisory Committee of the der Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Commission, and fought for the inclusion of trans-gender persons into the city's

gender persons into the city's nondiscrimination ordinance which occurred in 1995.

Adam Colton, the openly gay Novato teenager who's been the victim of two highly publicized anti-gay hate crimes. Colton was nominated by someone who said, "He is our powerful future." Last September, Colton, 17, came out of the closet at home and at school and started a Gay/Straight Alliance and started a Gay/Straight Alliance and started a varyStraight Aniance att San Marin High School; he was attacked a week later. After a sec-ond attack in February, the Nova-to community held a rally to con-

to community held a rally to con-demn anti-gay violence. Another North Bay teenager, Steven Cozza, 14, was nominated by a city resident. Cozza started the nonprofit organization Scout-ing For All last year in response to the Boy Scouts of America's anti-gay policies. Cozza, who describes himself as heterosexual bas startgay policies. Cozza, who describes himself as heterosexual, has started a petition and hopes to get one million signatures to present to Boy Scout officials to get them to change their policies. He has marched in previous Pride Parades to support the LGBT community for the last four years.

The other heterosexual nominated is Sacramento Methodist minister Don Fado, who defied

minister **Don Fado**, who defied his denomination and led 150 clergy - some in absentia - in per-forming a holy union for Sacraforming a holy union for Sacra-mento Methodist lay leaders Ellie

Charlton and Jeanne Barnett in

Charlton and Jeanne Barnett in January. Recently, United Methodist Bishop Melvin Talbert filed a formal complaint against Fado and 68 clergy who participated in the event.

Latino figure skating champion Rudy Galindo was nominated at a pride board meeting. Witherington said Galindo was nominated because he's out in a public way in a sport with lots of closeted people. In 1996 after skating for over 15 years, Galindo competed at the U.S. Nationals in his hometown of San Jose, where he won the competition after a stellar performance that saw him upset two former U.S. champions to became the oldest gold medalist in 70 years.

U.S. champions to became the oldest gold medalist in 70 years.
Longtime gay rights activist Harry Hay was nominated as an example of "Proud Heritage." Hay was one of the founders of the original Mattachine Society in 1950 and was one of the first people in the United States to argue and articulate the idea of gays and lesbians as a distinct cultural and political minority. Hay has a long. political minority. Hay has a long history of labor activism, and a commitment to developing coali-tion politics and has continually challenged queers to examine

thair relationships to each other and to the larger society.

National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendell, who's been with the agency since 1994 and became ex-ecutive director in 1996. Kendell has worked on behalf of lesbian and gay families across the country. In addition to the cuttingedge work with NCLR, Kendell edge work with NCLR, Kendell has been an adjunct professor at Hastings College of the Law and the Boalt Law School at the University of California, Berkeley. Raised in Utah, Kendell served as a staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah before compine to California.

fore coming to California.
California Assemblywoman
Sheila James Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), who has authored bills aimed at improving education for LGBT youth and was the first openly gay or lesbian person elect-ed to the state Legislature. During her first two terms in the Assembly, Kuehl authored 38 bills that were signed into law to further protect domestic violence victims and their children, tighten child support enforcement, prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender in the workplace and in edgender in the workplace and in ed-ucation, increase the rights of crime victims, safeguard the envi-ronment, and fund after school programs for at-risk youth.

Sara Waddell Lewenstein,

who has been involved with the Gay Games since its inception in 1981 and is commissioner of the Gay Softball League. She's also tournament director for World Series 2001 which will take place

in San Francisco.

Mary Midgett, the former cochair of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA), has been active in the community for decades. A writer and educator, Midgett served from 1982 to 1986 as co-chair of the Bay Area Black Lesbians and Gays, the first such group locally. She was co-founder of NIA, an African-American lesbian collective and has worked as an instructor at the Harvey Milk Institute for the last two years. She also helped implement the speak-ers program at Community Unit-ed Against Violence.

The Reverend **Jim Mitulski** of Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco. Mitulski and others at MCC-SF have Church-San Francisco, Mitulski and others at MCC-SF have worked to improve the quality of life for homeless people in the Castro through the "Simply Supper" program where food is served several nights a week. He has spoken out regularly against anti-gay violence and for a more compassionate response to the city's homeless and panhandling issues and his church serves as a meeting place for countless groups.

Lester Olmstead-Rose, for-

Lester Olmstead-Rose, former executive director at Com-munity United Against Violence

was nominated by the same person who nominated Cameron. During his more than five years During his more than five years leading the nonprofit agency, Olmstead-Rose said client services were expanded, particularly regarding education and the establishment of a permanent bilingual Spanish-English speaking staff and the ability to offer shelter to victims.

Mr. San Francisco Leather 1996 **Gary Virginia**, who's cur-rently president of the board at AIDS Benefits Counselors Positive Resource Center and who is active in the LGBT community. Virginia has raised thousands of dollars over the years for various HIV/AIDS and gay charities. Virginia believes in the inherent goodness of the community and has shown himself to be tireless in his efforts to further understand-

his efforts to further understanding of the LGBT community, improve the quality of peoples' lives, and to set an example for others by his own record of community service and volunteerism.

Gay labor leader Howard Wallace, who was the first national co-chair of Pride at Work, an organization of gay, lesbian, and bisexual trade unionists. Wallace has been a community reprelace has been a community representative and organizer for the Service Employees International

Union (SEIU) Local 250 for 10 Union (SEIU) Local 250 for 10 years, and is best known for launching effective national boycotts against Florida orange juice, Shell Oil, and Coors Beer. He was also a leading organizer against the John Briggs initiative targeting gay teachers in 1978 and the LaRouche initiative aimed at scapegoating AIDS patients in 1986. He has received many community awards

munity awards.

Tom Ammiano, Dr. Juanita
Owens, and Lawrence Wong were nominated as a single con-tingent to represent the powerful future of the San Francisco LGBT community. Ammiano is presi-dent of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors; Owens is president of the San Francisco Board of Education; and Wong is president of the City College of San Francisco Board of Trustees.

Witherington said more than one of the individuals nominated for grand marshal may be elected, depending upon the number of votes cast for the various nominees. The votes will be tallied and the results announced May 5, allowing for winners to be notified and confirm their acceptance.

For more information, call the pride office at (415) 864-3733.

MEN'S ASSOCIATED EXCHANGE



THANK GOODNESS IT'S FRIDAY

Third Friday TGIF, April 16, 6-9 pm

@The City Club, 10th Floor, 155 Sansome Street (between Bush & Pine)

Are you tired of the typical bar crowd? Are you looking for a way to meet some new friends? If so, then MAX's TGIF is perfect for you. Held the first and third Friday of each month, TGIF attracts nearly 400 gay men after work to the fabulously art-deco City Club to see friends, make new acquaintances, and jump-start the weekend. TGIF is also a great place to learn more about other MAX activities held this month. If you live in the South or East Bay, then join us for our TGIF in Sunnyvale on the second Friday or Walnut Creek on the fourth Friday of each month. There is a \$5 cover for non-members.

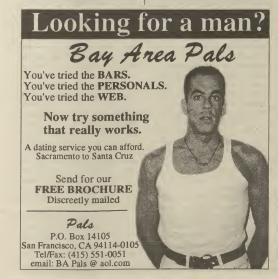
4th Friday (4/23) MAXEast TGIF - Scott's Garden, Walnut Creek

5th Friday (4/30) Special Fundraiser TGIF at GUMP'S, 135 Post Street, to benefit the Richmond / Ermet AIDS Foundation. \$20 entry, FREE martinis!

Men's Associated Exchange (MAX) is the Bay Area's largest social organization gay men, with more than 800 members. Every month, MAX stages 12-15 even drawing more than 1,500 men. From sports and travel to parties and arts and entertainment, MAX has something for everyone. Call 415-442-1994 for a free newsletter and more information or visit MAXOnline.



WWW.MAXONLINE.ORG



Clinton presses for hate crimes law

by Bob Roehr

resident Bill Clinton reiterated his support for federal hate crimes legislation at a White House event on Tuesday, April 6. He also asked the Department of Justice and Department of Education to begin collection data on bate crimes in lecting data on hate crimes in

He announced "a public-pri-vate partnership" to discuss tol-

erance in middle schools. The program, called "Dealing with Our Differences," will run in Oc-

Participating in that project are AT&T, Court TV, the Anti-Defamation League, and Cable in the Classrooms, along with federal agencies. Gay organizations are aware of the project but have yet to be involved in shaping its con-

In a long, rambling statement, the president linked ethnic

cleansing in Kosovo with hatred in the United States. He said, "America will not be able to be a

force for good abroad unless we are good at home."

Clinton drew upon his own experience growing up in the South when he said, "It is very easy to get into a social system where you always get to think a little better of yourself because you've always got someone that you can dehumanize. And that's really what this whole issue with gays is today in America."

It was the only time he used the word gay, or lesbian, or ho-mosexual in a statement of more than 2,000 words, roughly four times the length of this article. His language in support of hate crimes legislation was forceful, but also generic.

The meeting came a day after the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs reported a 108 percent increase in anti-gay violence in 1998 over the previous year. The incidents are not only growing in number, they are ning increasingly severe

'The president has always un-

sending the message that a hate crime committed against one American is a crime against all Americans and is an assault on our society's core values," said Winnie Stachelberg, political di-rector of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). She called upon Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999.

Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) has scheduled a hearing on the bill before the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 28. He held a similar hearing last July.

Rea Carey is concerned that the reporting of hate in schools be fair and accurate. She said that be fair and accurate. She said that gay youth often see school ad-ministrators as part of the prob-lem. Some don't even acknowl-edge the presence of gay youth in their schools, while others blame the teens for bringing anti-gay harassment upon themselves by being out.

Carey is executive director of Carey is executive director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, which aims to improve the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth.

Dealing with Our Differences bealing with Our Differences is "an opportunity to reach a large number of students with the message of providing a safe environment for all students, regardless of their differences," said gardiess of their differences, sau Kate Frankfurt, director of advo-cacy and public policy with Gay, Lesbian, and Straight, Education Network (GLSEN). She noted that "the president

has been cautious in his own lan-guage" on gay and lesbian issues. She emphasized, "Caution will not help these students better understand these issues. They

understand these issues. They need to be spoken to in very clear terms, not information that is couched in euphemism."

The Family Research Council saw Clinton's remarks as a conspiracy 'to invade America's middle schools and colleges with the homosexual agenda under the guise of 'teaching tolerance,' according to its senior director of cultural studies Robert H. Knight. "The message is anything but

"The message is anything but subtle: support a federal hate crimes law and 'tolerance re-education' for hapless pupils or be complicit in murder."

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Jenny Jones case heats up with sex, lies, and ambushes

United Press International

ttorneys in a lawsuit stemming from an episode of The Jenny Jones Show, which ultimately led to one guest murdering another guest, have presented the jury with very different explanations of what really happened. Plaintiffs' attorney Geoffrey Fieer said he'll prove the offrey Fieger said he'll prove the defendants are "greedy corporations exploiting peoples' emo-

But in a surprise announcement, a defense attorney in the civil trial said the death was linked

civil trial said the death was linked to a gay relationship gone awry.
Attorney James Feeney says he'll prove that murder victim Scott Amedure and convicted killer Jonathan Schmitz had a sexual liaison after the taping of the show, before Amedure was killed. Feeney claims the encounter was confirmed by Amedure's mother.

The mother is among the rela-

tives of the victim suing the TV talk show for \$50 million. The Amedure family says the 1995 shooting was triggered by an embarrassing "ambush" of Schmitz during a show about secret gay crushes. Three days later Schmitz killed Amedure in his Oakland County meblic home.

County mobile home.

Donna Riley, who appeared on the talk show with Schmitz and Amadure, testified that she did not play "matchmaker" for the men, and denied encouraging an affair by arranging for the two to

go skinny-dipping together. Riley, a single mother, was Amedure's friend and an acquain-

Amedure's friend and an acquain-tance of Schmitz before the three agreed to appear for a taping of the show in Chicago. Schmitz later said he thought the program about "secret crush-es" would hinge on Riley an-nouncing her attraction toward Schmitz. Instead, Amedure re-vealed his feelings, bugged vealed his feelings, hugged Schmitz, and described a whipped-cream-and-hammock

fantasy.
Riley testified that a day after the shooting, a Jenny Jones Show producer phoned and asked her to appear for a videotaped disclaimer about the incident with

claimer about the incident with Jenny Jones, Riley refused.
The plaintiffs claim the Jenny Jones Show neglected to investi-gate Schmitz's mental problems before the program. The defen-dants - Warner Brothers, Telepic-tures, and Jenny Jones - claim Schmitz knew before going on stage that his secret admirer could be male or female.

Another witness at the trial,

Another witness at the trial, University of Miami-Florida Prothat she had warned the show's producers that programs about surprise confessions could be disastrous, but said the show's officiels "included hearboard to the show's officiels" in the hearboard at the show's officiels "included hearboard to the show's officiels" in the hearboard at the show's officiels "included hearboard to the show's officiels" in the hearboard at the show's officiels in the show's officiels cials "just laughed at me.

Schmitz is now serving 25-50 years for second-degree murder. He avoided a first-degree murder conviction after his attorney argued diminished mental capacity.

CUAV report

Ammiano and Mark Leno were featured speakers at the event, but before they delivered their com-ments the two men stood side-by-

ments the two men stood side-byside, listening with wrinkledbrows as Rakowski earnestly reviewed last year's murder statistics
and highlighted some of the widespread violence.

"The year 1998 was underlined
with tragedy as anti-LGBT murders increased 136 percent nationwide" from 14 to 33, Rakowski said. In addition, she illustrated
that Northern California is not that Northern California is not immune to the violence, citing the horrific deaths of Brian Wilmes – who was attacked on Mission Street near Van Ness while the of-fender screamed "Faggot" and "Bitches" – and Louis Pearson, who was tortured along the shore of Lake Mendocino by two at-tackers who shoved a stick up his nose, penetrating into his brain.

Last year, 434 people braved institutional, emotional, and psychological barriers and reported their incidents to CUAV. The most devastating trends documented in the 1998 report were the upsurge of law enforcement offenders – specifically police violence against transgendered and transsexual people; the increased brutality of attacks; sexual assault and rape incidents, which increased 80 percent; and the cloud of harassment that surrounds gay and questioning youth. Survivors of anti-transgender

violence increased over 20 percent from 27 to 33, with the greatest number of victims in San Francisco and New York. More than 20 percent of all victims have experienced previous attacks by the

same perpetrator.
When Supervisors Ammiano and Leno spoke, they briefly and eloquently expressed their feelings on the current climate of hate and violence. "Our elected officials must attempt to stop this behav-ior by passing federal legislation

protecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities from hate crimes and violence," said Ammiano. (See related story, this page.)
"Those officials who do not

stand up to such criminal behavior may not pull the trigger," he added, "but they're loading the

Leno said, "All fair-minded individuals have the responsibility to stand together and unite around the calls for federal laws

around the calls for federal laws preventing hate crimes and violence against our community."

CUAV has included recommendations in the local analysis and urges legislators, law enforcement officials, members of the LGBT community, and society in general to take part in the struggle to eliminate anti-LGBT violence.

lence.
"A community will be judged not by the presence of hate," concluded Rakowski, "but by the failure of concerned individuals to respond to hate and violence." ▼

Another transgender murder

Local TG group declares 'state of emergency and national crisis'

by Vicky Kolakowski

Thompson in Wilcox County, Georgia on Tuesday, March 30 has prompted local transgender activists to declare a state of emergency and national

Thompson, formerly known Thompson, formerly known as Billy Joe Turner, was found se-verely bleeding from head wounds after walking a half-mile to a farmhouse in rural Georgia from the crime scene. She was beaten with a baseball bat and later died from the wounds, but

later died from the wounds, but only after police conducted some initial questioning.

Police say that Thompson identified her boyfriend as the assailant, although police have been unable to identify the boyfriend.

Something of a drifter, police have had diffiguities resorter stire. had difficulties reconstructing Thompson's personal life and identifying the murderer.

The murder is the fifth publicly reported murder of a trans-

nety reported murder of a trans-gendered person this year, which some transgender leaders view as an emerging epidemic.
"Reported cases of transgender murders are escalating; since Au-gust of 1998 there has been ap-proxymately one murder. proximately one murder a month," Gwen Smith, a Bay Area transgender activist who tracks reports of transgender murders, told the Bay Area Reporter. "Since February of 1999, however, that number has jumped to two a month."

Based on very liberal estimates of the transgender population, which would yield a conservative

murder rate, transgender historian Candice "Kay" Brown recently cal-culated that a murder rate of one male-to-female transsexual person each month comes to an average of 119 murders per 100,000 transsex-uals, or an average 16 times greater than the national average. This murder rate is more than three times that of African-American men, who have the next highest recorded murder rate.

recorded murder rate.

"And considering that most of it is motivated by transphobia, as evidenced by the brutality of the manner of death [multiple stabbing, beating, choking] we are indeed seeing the brunt of the hate crime in the U.S. as a percentage of our population. ... This is a state of emergency," Brown declared.

Local transgender group TG Rage is responding to the murders by starting a letter writing and e-mail campaign and other activities designed to draw the attention of the general public to the high murder rate of transgender people.

der rate of transgender people.

Roots of violence

The causes of the high murder rate appear to be more complex than simple random transphobic violence. Widespread employ-ment discrimination leads to an unusually high unemployment rate among transgender people, said Rosalyne S. Montgomery of TRansgenders United for Equali-ty (TRUE). Montgomery works as an advocate for the low-income transgender community in San

This economic and social marginalization places transgender people in more high risk situations, transgender activists contend, forcing them to be more dependent upon more dangerous lifestyles and relationships.

Iftestyles and relationships.

"This happens all the time to male-to-female transsexual victims of violence," Shawna Virago, a domestic violence and hate violence victim advocate for Community United Against Violence (CUAV) in San Francisco, told the B.A.R. "Her choices are limited. Often she dates someone she Often she dates someone she knows is wrong for her, her friends know are wrong for her, but there is a fear of being alone, and she thinks that having anyone is better than no one. Many of us have this fear that nobody will find us attractive and will want us."

attractive and will want us.

In addition, outside of the Bay
Area some male-to-female transsexuals feel unsupported by either
the gay and lesbian or the mainstream straight domestic violence groups. Locally, CUAV has developed an especially strong relationship with San Francisco's

transgender community.

The problem confronted by The problem confronted by transgender victims of violence is compounded by widespread concern about police abuse of transgender people, which leads transgender people to avoid police involvement in already tense domestic situations, Virago said.

CUAV held a press conference on Tuesday, April 6 to discuss their annual report on hate violence at which they highlighted the problems of police abuse of transgen-

der people (see related story, page 1). The press conference was followed by a rally by TransAction on Wednesday, April 7 at the San Francisco Hall of Justice, to specifrrancisto Haif of justice, to specifically address the problem of police abuse of transgender people.

TransAction is a collaboration between advocates from CUAV, Bay Area PoliceWatch, and other

transgender activists.

"In over 50 percent of the total transgender hate violence cases, the

offender was a law enforcement officer," Virago noted about the local findings. "This completely mirrors the national trend. There is increased police brutality against the transgender community."

"People need to realize that transsexuals frequently face these two problems," Virago added, "of feeling trapped with someone they know is wrong, and then afraid that the police will abuse them if they report it."

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Shepard suspect pleads guilty, gets life in prison

United Press International

ne of two men charged with killing gay Wyoming stu-dent Matthew Shepard has pleaded guilty to lesser charges and was sentenced to life in prison

and was sentenced to life in prison Monday, April 5. Russell Henderson pleaded guilty to felony murder and kid-napping near the end of jury se-lection in the first of two trials stemming from a brutal slaying that police believe was carried out because Shepard was gay.
Soon after entering the plea,

Henderson was sentenced to two consecutive life prison terms. Aaron McKinney's trial is slated

Henderson and McKinney, both 21, were charged with first-degree murder, robbery and kidnapping in the October 7 attack on Shepard, who was found lashed to a wooden fence outside

lashed to a wooden tence outside Laramie, nearly dead.

Shepard, a University of Wyoming student who was openly gay, died at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado, five days later. Henderson and McKinney were already in custody.

Police said it was Shepard's sexual orientation that drove Henderson and McKinney to lure him from a Laramie bar, then pis-

him from a Laramie bar, then vistol-whip and beat him into unconsciousness

Eighteen hours later a passer-by who first thought Shepard was a scarecrow hanged onto a fence as a Halloween prank took a closer look and discovered that he was looking at a savagely beaten

young man.

The slaying triggered global outrage and calls for tougher laws

against hate crimes.

Henderson's girlfriend, 21year-old Chasity Pasley, pleaded
guilty December 23 to accessory
after the fact to murder and will
be sentenced later this year. McKinney's girlfriend, Kristen Price,
is slated for trial next month.

Prior to his sentencing, Henderson told the court he drove the
truck and helped lash Shepard to
'the fence, but claimed he asked
McKinney to cease the beating
and that McKinney kept it up.

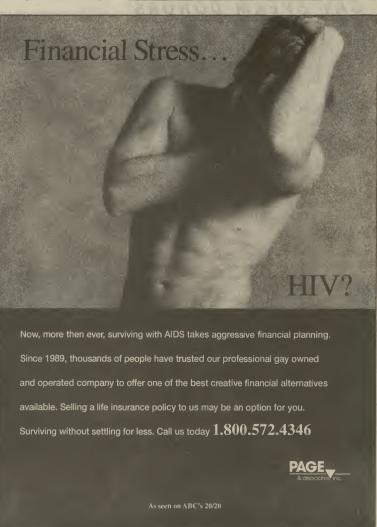
Outside the courthouse, a
group of anti-gay demonstrators
led by Kansas minister Fred Phelps
shouted slogans as counterdemonstrators dressed as angels
tried to block them from view.

'Verry homofobik'

McKinney's court-appointed lawyer, Dion Custis, says Hender-son "fabricated" testimony about son "fabricated" testimony about the slaying to save his own life. However, a letter attributed to McKinney, obtained by KCNC-TV in Denver, says that he "flipped out" when Shepard told him he was gay and "wanted a piece of me."

McKinney reportedly wrote, "Being a verry [sic] drunk homofobik [sic] I flipped out and began to whip the fucker with my gun."

Custis says he has not decided whether to request that McKinney's trial be moved out of Laramie.



A parent magnitude

by Stephen J. LeBlanc

IV-positive people face a constant and recurring battle to see themselves, and have society see them, as human beings whose lives are as fully valuable as anyone else's. And while HIV activists have fought and won many battles.

And while HIV activists have fought and won many battles against AIDS discrimination, some key struggles remain.

One critical issue is the insidious medical discrimination practiced by the organ transplant infrastructure in this country. This discrimination denies life-swing owar transplants to HIV. This discrimination denies lite-saving organ transplants to HIV-positive people who need them. At first glance, some might as-sume that such discrimination is scientifically justifiable but – as has been discussed in this col-umn – a review of the scientific literature indicates that HIV-pos-tive people, can be a successful itive people can be as successful as transplant recipients as HIV-

negative people. Yet, the small clique of doctors who control most of the organ transplants in most of the organ transplants in this country seem simply not to value an HIV-positive life as highly as an HIV-negative life and therefore discriminate against those with HIV.

Another area of medical dis-crimination that at first blush might seem scientifically justifiable is fertility services. At the present time, there are no services available anywhere in the Vices available anywhere in the U.S. that will assist an HIV-positive man or HIV-positive woman to become biological parents, although there are services to help an HIV-positive woman, once she is pregnant, to deliver a healthy baby. Yet experiences of programs in other countries, and the experiences of individuals who have been determined to become pregnant without medical come pregnant without medical assistance, suggest that this discrimination is also not scientifi-

With correct medical care, available data suggests that both HIV-positive men and HIV-pos-

HIV-positive men and HIV-positive women can become parents with a very high likelihood of having an HIV-negative baby.

"When I tested positive in 1990, the very first thought that came to my mind was 'Oh God, does that mean I can't have children?" recalls Rebecca Denison, founder of WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases) and one of the first HIV-positive women ac-HIV-positive women ac-tivists to choose pregnan-"The reaction surprised cy. "The reaction surp me because I had been something of a ACT

been something or a tomboy as a young girl and not the type to have dreamt of motherhood my whole life. I didn't realize what an important part of my life that was until I thought it was taken away from me.

that was until I thought it was taken away from me.

"The prospect of illness and a shortened lifespan was hard, but tolerable. The part I couldn't accept was having the opportunity to have a child with my husband taken away from me."

For five years, Denison mourned the loss of her chance to have a biological child as she became an AIDS educator and AIDS activist. "But I kept a close watch on the science," she says, "and I saw the risks getting lower and lower. In 1995, I realized I was waiting for someone to give

and lower. In 1995, I realized I was waiting for someone to give me an absolute guarantee, but that no one would give me a guarantee."

Denison became pregnant in July of 1995. In October, she found out she was carrying twins and she gave birth on March 12, 1996. An HIV viral load test taken the day the twins were born showed the babies had no detectable HIV viral load. They did have a positive HIV antibody test because babies carry antibodies from the mother for the first year or so of life. The twins' antibody or so of life. The twins' antibody

or so of life. The twins' antibody test eventually became negative; they are healthy and just celebrated their third birthday.

Since publicly discussing her decision to become pregnant, Denison has counseled more than 100 HIV-positive women, and a handful of HIV-positive men, who want to become parents. "I feel there is much more acceptance today for HIV-positive acceptance today for HIV-positive men, who want to become parents." acceptance today for HIV-posi-tive women who want to become pregnant or want to carry a preg-nancy to term, especially after the results of studies that indicate

that HIV-positive women can

that HIV-positive women can give birth with less than five per-cent chance of transmission." But while medical studies done for HIV-positive men indi-cate that the risk of transmission is far less, fertility treatments that would help men become biologi-cal fathers with a minimized risk are unavailable in this country. "I get a lot of phone calls, from men

especially, saying that fertility clinics won't help them," Denison reports. "No fertility provider I know of is helping people who want to be parents reduce the risk of HIV transmission to each other or to their

kids."
One researcher in fact,

the U.S. has, in fact, been attempting to establish a program to assist men with chronic viral infections safely be-come parents. Dr. Ann Kiessling, an internationally recognized ex-pert in assisted reproductive technologies, has endured years of stops and starts for a program using in vitro (test-tube) fertilization. In the procedure, sperm is tested for viral load and only sperm with non-detectable viral load is used to fertilize an egg in a test tube. The embryos are allowed to divide and tested again for HIV, and only embryos with no detectable HIV are implanted into the mother's uterus.
"We've run into extreme insti-

UP

we we turn into extreme insti-tutional caution and resistance about the program," reports Kiessling. "We've gotten it start-ed two different times, and then been shut down when the clinics been shut down when the clinics it was residing in have merged into other institutions and the new management didn't want to have anything to do with us. I've had couples who've gotten too old to have children while waiting for us to be able to provide services, and it's heartbreaking."

Kiessling explains that a number of factors make it difficult to provide such a service in the U.S. "The CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] in 1990 received reports of a couple of cases were women were infected with HIV after artificial insemination with 'washed' sperm and issued a statement that the procedure should not be done. kiessling notes. "But at that time viral load testing of sperm samples was not available. While I find some of the European data very interesting and encourag-ing, and I believe artificial in-semination with washed and tested sperm might be safe, the Italian researchers have not been able to produce the kind of documentation of their results that

umentation of their results that the CDC would find conclusive that the procedure is safe."

Kiessling reports that she receives a lot of calls from couples in California, where she understands there is a law forbidding the taking of any material from an HIV-positive person and placing it into another person, which would effectively outlaw the procedure. While Kiessling hopes to have her program available in the Boston area within a year, at present she is not aware of any sersent she is not aware of any services available in the U.S.

The situation is different in The situation is different in Europe. Published treatment studies in Germany, Italy, and Spain have thus far documented births of 37 children in Spain, 157 children in Italy, and 10 children in Germany to HIV-negative mothers from HIV-positive fathers through artificial insemination. With a total of well over 1,000 artificial insemination attempts in the three studies, it is tempts in the three studies, it is reported that none of the women and none of the babies became and none of the babies became infected with HIV. In these inseminations, sperm was taken from the father and "washed" to remove any white blood cells in the sperm and any free viral particles. The sperm was then tested for an HIV viral load and was not used for insemination if any HIV. used for insemination if any HIV

In the Spanish study, 94 percent of the washed semen sam-ples had no detectable HIV and were used for insemination; those were used for insemination; mose men whose sample was HIV de-tectable, had an undetectable sample on a subsequent visit. These results, and Denison's

experience, suggest that HIV-positive men and HIV-positive women can become biological parents with a contained risk of transmission to their children. Though there is not no risk, for HIV-positive women receiving proper treatment, the risk approaches that of giving birth to a child with some other severe health complication. For HIVpositive men, with proper treatment and using artificial insemination, the risk may be far less.

For more information: Fertility and Sterility, July 1998, Vol. 70, No.1, p. 35-39; Lancet Nov. 28, 1992, Vol. 340, p. 1317-19; www.abstracts-on-line.com, Abstract no. 23155; info@moraduction.





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Mark Douglas Buettner



Buettner left this world on March 8, 1999. Mark was a strong warrior, a long-time fighter and survivor of AIDS. He also had a

gentle soul, one which sometimes struggled with the harsh realities of this world. Mark's love of nature and beauty, and his passionate care for the environment, were constants in his life, starting with his first word: "lower."

While San Francisco was his home for many years, Mark always belonged to Montana, its mountains, bears, big sky, and endless beauty. Throughout his life, Mark retained a child-like wonder and fascination with nature in all its manifestations. Mark was and is the great love of my life, a love that transcends definition or explanation. Mark was surrounded by the love of his family, who knew and lowed him as an outstanding son, a good brother, a caring uncle, a lowing nephew, and the communicator of the family. God blessed us with his presence, a beautiful and wonderful gift. Mark's uniqueness and spe-

cial qualities will be missed, and we will keep him alive in our hearts forever. We love you, Mark. Donations in Mark's memory can be made to the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, or Metropolitan Community Church.

Leonard Patterson Riley



so much.

He was born
three months premature in 1945 and somehow survived.
He was raised in near-powerty by a single mother. He got polio at age ten,
missing the availability of the vaccine by
a few months. Nevertheless, he went on
to become a strong volleyball player, a
passionately devoted bicyclist, and a
long-term regular at the Muscle System
gym on Market Street. He tested positive for HIV in 1983. He was a participant in a study that helped bring the
HIV-fighting drug Sustiva to the pharmacies. His year-long struggle with
Hodgkin's lymphoma ended March 28.
His last words to me were, "We won."
Leonard painted with passion and
conviction throughout his adult life.
Keep an eye open for retrospectives of
his work.

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Steven Ray Silva November 12, 1956 -March 29, 1999



Steve ("don't call me Steven!") Silva went to God peacefully on Mon-day morning in the presence and with the love of George

A carpenter, cook, craftsman, rock-n-roller, antiques entrepreneur, active in his church and a former resident of the Maitri Hospice, Steve will be missed by

Maitri Hospice, Steve will be missed by many,
Steve's parents, Bud and Bessie Silva of Newman, California loved, accepted and supported their son throughout his life. He is survived by three brothers, John, Rusty, and Gary Silva, and an extended family of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and a sister-in-law. Steve touched many lives with his generosity, quick wit, directness and his attention to detail. Steve's passing may have left an empty place in our lives, but he will always occupy a very special place in our hearts and in our memories.

William E. Stephens (Uncle Billy) 1928 — 1999



Quackenbush backs policyholder with AIDS

by M.R. Richards B.A.R. Capitol Correspondent

alifornia Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush filed an amicus brief with the mied an amicus brief with the California Supreme Court Mon-day, March 29, in support of an in-surance policyholder with AIDS. The policyholder, Mark Galanty, was denied disability benefits by Paul Revere Insurance Company because his illness had manifested itself before the policy was issued. Galanty stated he was HIV-positive when, in 1988, his insurance agent solicited his application for the policy. However, the policy was granted and he paid premiums for over two years.

Eventually Galanty submitted a

claim for disability benefits because he had developed AIDS. Four months after they began paying benefits, the Paul Revere company wanted Galanty's medical records, and several months after that stopped paying benefits. Galanty filed suit in December 1995 but the company received a summary judgment in their favor and the California Court of Appeals later affirmed the decision. In December 1995, Quackenbush had intervened in the case by issuing an order to show cause to the insurance company, alleging that it had passed the time period within which they could have denied Galanty's claim for an illness that existed prior to

the date the policy was issued.

Quackenbush then filed the amicus brief with the California Supreme Court. Quackenbush said, "I am supporting Mr. Galanty in this case to ensure that important consumer protection statutes are not weakened. We must not allow insurance compamust not allow insurance compa-nies to create statutory loopholes in order to deny valid consumer claims." Quackenbush expressed deep concern about the appellate court decision because it would

miums for many years, just when he needs his insurance most." Galanty's attorney, Robert Gi-anelli, raised a frightening issue: "If insurers are allowed to disre-gard the incontestability clause, they will forever be pointing to obscure, old symptoms and argue they were prior manifestations of a current disabling condition, Suddenly a higher than average cholesterol reading, 10 years prior, will be deemed the cause of a dis-abling heart condition. No con-

"It is unfair to penalize an AIDS victim, who never lied about his HIV status and who paid premiums for many years, just when he needs his insurance most."

severely dilute the strength of

consumer protection statutes.

"The legislative intent behind the incontestability clause is clearly to protect consumers by preventing insurance companies from denying claims after two years based on pre-existing condi-tions," he said. "It sets a very bad precedent to allow the specific language of an insurance company contract to override a consumer protection statute. More importantly, it is unfair to penalize an AIDS victim, who never lied about his HIV status and who paid pre-

sumer will be free from post claim scrutiny no matter how long he has had his policy."

Quackenbush is joined by AIDS Project Los Angeles, California Women's Law Center, Western Law Center for Disabled Rights, Protection and Advocacy Inc. and the ACLU of Southern California.

When asked why the usually

When asked why the usually When asked why the usually low-profile, conservative commissioner would so strongly support Galanty's cause, press aide, Scott Edelen said, "It's very simple. It was the right thing to do." was the right thing to do."

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Two naked dogs

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INSURANCE · MEDICARE · SLIDING SCALE

by Jim Provenzano

after lunch cene: Duboce Park. Tuesday,

BIFF: Hey, bitch, how's it going?

MONA: Fine, You?

BIFF: Okay. Mmm. Your ass smells great

MONA: Thanks, I switched diets. BIFF: Happy birthday, again!

MONA: So, what's with that new Basenji Queen in your building?

BIFF: Oh, her. Always going for MONA: How is he doing in the short-haired silent type. Oahu? told him he's too young.

No sense of history. Never even had his toes clipped and so cynical, forgetting all the good things in the community.

MONA: Really. Well, some one's gotta mentor the young ones. Speakin' o which. Didja hear? PAWS is doing another Fun Run.

BIFF: Oh, great. I met Dodger there (sighs).

BIFF: Oh, gosh. You didn't hear? He won \$10,000 on America's Wackiest something-orother, just for opening a door!

MONA: Amazing.

BIFF: So, I'll have to make a note and whine to remind my raise some bucks for

the Fun Run.

Sports Complex

MONA: Mine can't even think that far ahead. Of course when my first Dave got sick, they brought in some folks to help. That was great, dropping off the feed bag. One Dave said I raised his T-cell count by hundreds!

BIFF: Your tongue would do that

MONA: You hound.

(Large drooling Labrador passes

MONA & BIFF: Hello. BIFF: Nice hind.

MONA: Mmm.

BIFF: So, when's the Fun Run

again? MONA: Sunday, June 13. At the

Speedway Meadow in Golden Gate Park. It's only five kilometers, so even your Dave can han-

BIFF: Stop. I've whined for him to cut down on the Phish Food.

MONA: What is with that stuff? They make the same sounds as when I barge in on them hump-

BIFF: Stop. You're getting me ex-

MONA: I love that park. They have feral cats there.

BIFF: Stop. You're getting me more excited.

(A ball rolls downhill beside them.

FRAF.



Now sniff this: PAWS will hold a 5k run in Golden Gate Park June 13.

BIFF: June 13? Hmmm. That's a new moon phase. Too bad they don't do a night run. That way we could howl, and you could show off your new blinking night col-

MONA: Is it too much?

BIFF: No, it's fab. At least you don't go around in that tacky SM number Bruce wears.

MONA: With every outfit.

BIFF: Even the hunky Jesus contest at the Sister's thing last Sun-

MONA: Oh, that was a scene. They had to tell him three times it was a human-only contest.

BIFF: Hey, you missed a tree.

MONA: Oops. Thanks.

BIFF: Say, how's, um ... whats-

his-nose? With the bad hair?

MONA: Oh, Scruffy? Ever since they cut off his balls, he's so mel-

BIFF: You should invite him.

MONA: Good idea.

BIFF: Oops. Gotta go. Dave threw something at me.

MONA: Sniff ya later! ▼

For more information on registration for the fourth annual Doggone Fun Run benefiting PAWS, have your Dave call (415) 241-1460, email Pets Are Wonderful Support at pawssf@dnai.com, or walk them to the PAWS office at 3248 16th Street in San Francisco.

looking for a

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Sport briefs

by Jim Provenzano

ourt-Appointed spring tennis events have begun for the Gay and Lesblan Tennis Association. Team slots are filled, but there's plenty more courtly activities to enjoy. Matches take place each Sunday at City College. Competition builds toward the Cap Cup Championships September 26-28.

But a bigger event will be the United States Gay Open, May 28-31, where tennis players from around the computer will descend

28-31, where tennis players from around the country will descend on the Bay Area. To participate or help out, sign up for USGO, write 2215-R Market Street, Suite 109, SF CA 94114, visit their website at ww.gltf.org/~gltf, or call (415) 263-5929.

Getting the "spring has sprung" itch to enjoy the great outdoors?

Getting the "spring has sprung" itch to enjoy the great outdoors? Here's two queer options.

OUTside Sports, the Bay Area's own kayaking, rockclimbing and biking adventure tours group, has a whole bunch of new trips for lesbians and gay men. From a two-day kayaking trip in Tomales Bay to whale-watching trips to Alaska, plus snowboarding, Hawaii treks and ski adventures, they've got it. Call (415) 864-7205, e-mail ken@getoutsidesports.com, or visit their website at www.getoutsidesports.com.

For women looking for an outdoor adventure, Wild Heart Productions has a new tour to Baja, Mexico. Call (415) 331-9489 or visit their website at www.womenkayaking.com The group is also producing an April 10 fundraising dance to benefit Breast Cancer Action of San Francisco. Tickets are \$35 (\$30 before April 2). The dance will be held at the Golden Gate Yacht Club. Info: (415) 334-

dance will be held at the Golden Gate Yacht Club. Info: (415) 334-

Surely boothed

Does your GLBT sports group want to share a booth with Toes your data? If so great way to get new members. You need two volunteers to work at least one hour during the day. The clubs can provide brochures and membership forms for their organizations. The cost of the booth would be divided by the number of organizations participating. For more info, contact Anne Ludwig at allatandem@aol.com or call (415) 668-3771. ▼

Got a sports event? E-mail it to homeo@pachell.net

Pride Law Fund party Tuesday

by Vicky Kolakowski

wenty years after its founding as a tax-exempt spin-off from the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF), the National Educational Foundation for Individual Rights (NEFIR) will grab the spotlight, and announce a name change to the Pride Law Fund, at its "Spring Celebration and Cocktail Party"

this Tuesday, April 13.
For the past 15 years, NEFIR has funded law students working on diverse projects on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and

transgender (LGBT) community and people living with HIV/AIDS in the Bay Area and across the country. Because the organization funds others to perform legal ser-vices and provides no direct ser-vices itself, its efforts have remained largely unknown outside of the legal community.

The event also celebrates the

formal announcement of a major postgraduate fellowship for new attorneys. The fellowship will be attorneys. The removantp will be named after the late San Francis-co attorney Tom Steel, one of the nation's leading legal champions for the LGBT community. Each year, the Steel Fellowship

would fund a new attorney for that year to support their work on projects to address unmet legal needs in the LGBT community anywhere in the United States. It would be the first fellowship of its type in the nation.

The Pride Law Fund an-

ounced the start of a \$250,000 endowment drive to support the Steel Fellowship at the BALIF annual dinner last month.

nual dinner last month.

The Steel Fellowship Committee has secured a "challenge pledge," with a benefactor agreeing to match donations of \$500 or more, up to a total of \$50,000. Anyone who supports the fund

with \$500 will be recognized as a "Founder" and anyone supporting the fund at \$1,000 or more will be recognized as a "Visionary."

Present summer fellowships

for law students recognize Rober-ta Achtenberg, Steven Block, Mary Morgan, and Steven Richter, and Morgan, and Steven Richter, and provide financial support for law students working at a wide range of national and local legal support and advocacy organizations.

The spring celebration and cocktail party will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Restaurant 2223, located at 2223 Market Street be-

tween Sanchez and Noe streets.

The event is free, but a donation is suggested. Partygoers can enjoy wine, beer, non-alcohol beverages,

wine, beer, non-accinol beverages, and appetizers.

Supporters are also encouraged to stay for dinner afterwards, as the restaurant has also offered to donate 10 percent of dinner proceeds to support the Steel Fellowship. ▼

For info or to RSVP, call the Pride Law Fund at (415) 437-5711. For dinner reservations, call Restaurant 2223 directly at (415) 431-0692.

SF civil grand jury seeks members

by Cynthia Laird

ocal citizens who have time on their hands and who are on their hands and who are
immediated in the workings of
government have until this Monday, April 12 to fill out a prospective grand juror declaration to
volunteer to serve on the 1999-2000 Civil Grand Jury of the City and County of San Francisco. The and County of San Francisco. The 19 grand jury members serve for one year from July to June of the following year, and are selected at random from a pool of 30 prospective grand jurors.

Grand jurors receive a per diem fee of \$11 for each meeting of the entire grand jury and for each compiler with the meeting part of the service of \$12 for each meeting the pool to exceed four.

entire grand jury and for each committee meeting not to exceed four committee meetings per month. During the year it's estimated that a minimum of 500 hours is required for grand jury service.

The function of the civil grand jury is to investigate the operations of the various officers, departments, and agencies of the city's government. Each grand jury determines which officers, departments, and agencies it will investigate during its term of office.

Therese Stewart, the openly lesbian president of the Bar Association of San Francisco, told the Bay

tion of San Francisco, told the Bay Area Reporter that it's important for Area Reporter that it's important for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community to be represented on the civil grand jury. "Civil grand juries are important on a lot of fronts. It's an incredibly important role, the civil grand jury is effectively like a public attorney. The civil grand jury looks at wrongdoing by gov-ernment and ought to reflect the diversity of the community," said Stewart, who's a partner at the law firm Howard, Rice, Neverovski, Canady, Robertson & Falk. Stewart added that often, civil

and criminal grand juries are under-represented of a communi-ty's diversity. "When the court puts out a request [for grand jury members], it behooves those in communities that are under-represented to find people and put their names in," Stewart added their names in." Stewart added. She acknowledged the long hours and low pay for civil grand jurors, but said service is important and something for people to consider. In order to carry out its duties, the civil grand jury is divided into committees that are assigned to respective departments or areas being

committees that are assigned to re-spective departments or areas being investigated. The committees visit government facilities, meet with of-ficials, and develop recommenda-tions for improving city and coun-ty operations. The civil grand jury generally meets on Monday evenings for several hours at the 400 McAllister Street courthouse. Committee meetings are held at Committee meetings are held at other times at the convenience of

other times at the convenience of members and any witnesses. Members of the civil grand jury are required to "disclose all investment and business positions in business entities, and income from any sources which have done business with the city and county in the previous two years, and in-come from all individuals who are employees of the city and county, and all interests in real property," according to the San Francisco

Administrative Code.

By law, a person is eligible for grand jury service if they are at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen; a San Francisco resident for at least one San Francisco resident for at least one year; of ordinary intelligence and good character; and has a working knowledge of the English language. A person is not eligible if they have been discharged as a grand juror within one year; are serving as a trial juror, is an elected public officer, or has been convicted of a felony. \blacktriangledown

Grand juror declaration forms may be obtained at the Grand Jury office, 400 McAllister Street, Room 008 during office hours. For more info, call (415) 551-3605. The deadline is Monday, April 12 at 5 p.m.



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- 24 week study with an optional 24 week extension period

Study participants will receive:

- Free study medications and physical exams
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- \$100 compensation for one time only 14 hour hospital stay
- \$50 compensation for each study visit after screening
- Reimbursement for child care and travel also available

WOMEN AND MINORITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

Principal Investigator: Dr. Paul Volberding

For more information call Anna Smith at (415) 476-9296 ext. 313

LEGAL NOTICES

STATMENT FILE NO. 229681 STATMENT FILE NO. 229681
The following person(s) are doing business as, Lou's Pier 47. 300 Jefferson Street San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a Company, signed Glenn Meyers. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business mame or names on 01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/09/99. San Francisco, CA on 03/09/99. MAR.18,25, APR.1,8 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO.229680 The following person(s) are doing business as, Fly Trap Restaurant 606 Folsom St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a Corporation, signed Glenn Meyers. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 87/93. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and Country of San Francisco, QA on 03/09/99. San Francisco, CA on 03/09/99. MAR.18,25, APR.1,8 1999

STATEMENT FILE N0229806
The following person(s) are doing business as, A Exotic Pet Slnoy, 3412 Judah St. San Francisco, Ca. 94122-This business is conducted by an Individual, signed David A. Bannon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A.

e statement was filed with the County erk of the City and County of San Fran cisco,CA on 03/15/99. MAR.18,25, APR.1,8 1999

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date if Filing Application:
Feb 05,1999
To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of
the Applicant(s) is/are:
Rue Post Corporation
The applicants listed above are applying to
the Department of Alcoholic Beverages
Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:
663 Haight st san francisco, ca 94117.
For the following type of License:
41 on-sale beer and wine-eating place. 41 on-sale beer and wine-eating place. MAR.18,25. APR. 1 1999.

STATEMENT FILE NO230038 STATEMENT FILE NO230038
The following person(s) are doing business as, Wren Miller Co. 170 Duboce Avenue.
*11.3 an Francisco, Ca. 94103-1131.This business is conducted by an Individual, signed Wren I. Miller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/22-99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/22/99.
MAR. 25, APR. 1, 8, 15 1999.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

LEGAL NOTICES

STATMENT FILE NO. 229216 STATMENT FILE. NO. 229216
The following person(s) are doing business
as, Kennedy's Irish Pub Curry House.
1040 Columbus Avenue San Francisco,
Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by
an individual, signed Brahma B. Swami,
The registran(s) commenced to transact
business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on N/A. The
statement was filed with the County Clerk
of the City and County of San
Francisco CA. on 20/27/98 Francisco, CA on 02/22/99. APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE. CASE NO: 271716

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Ursula Skirb.

A petition for probate has been filed by Aldonna J. Carico in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. The petition for probate requests that Aldonna J. Carico, be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consent-

ed to the proposed action.) The Independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held on:April 26,1999. Timer9am Dept:204.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections of file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will mot expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. You may examine the fie kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Verback Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for petitioner Kevin W. Finck. Two Embarcadero Center, Suite 1670 San Francisco, Ca. 9411. (15) 286-9100. (415) 296-9100. MAR.25,APR.1,8 1999

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EAST BAY/EL CERRITO

GWM couple to share 3 bedrm house. Great view, sun deck whot tub, yard, washr, dryer, near Del Norte BART No pets please, 1 prs \$550 per mo. utils inc. Avail May 1.Must see 510-232-3894.

San Jose Share 2BR 2.5BA \$550+Deposit 408-615-0230

In SF near SFSU attractive 4 rm In Shinear ShSU attractive 4 rm furnished in-law in country type res for considerate gay male inclutil cable TV,W&D pvt entrance &park 1 car. Large garden \$750 mo No smok (415) 239-2223

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equipment, subsciption, and source
material to produce them, produce a
short demo and send it with your
background information to the followlong address. If you have the experipackground information to the follow-ing address. If you have the experi-ence and ability, but no means of pro-duction and are interested in relocat-ing to Portland Oregan, send a resume and salary history to this address; 395 9th Street San Francisco, Ca. 941031

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES Date of Filing Application: FEB 05,1999 To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of

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STATMENT FILE NO. 229441
The following person(s) are doing business as, Mellotone Performances, 79 Clipper St. San Francisco, Ca. 9411.4 This business is conducted by an individual, signed Albert Milton Sipp. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 030.01.99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco Ca. on 030.099. County of San Francisco, CA on 03/02/99.
MAR.11,18, 25 APR. 01, 1999

STATMENT FILE NO. 229601 STATMENT FILE NO. 229601
The following person(s) are doing busines as, Aoyama International, 172 Haight
Street Apt.#3, San Francisco, Ca. 94102.
This business is conducted by an Individual, signed Theresa Y.C. Kao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business mame or names on 03/05/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/05/99.

on 03/05/99. MAR.11,18, 25 APR. 01, 1999 STATMENT FILE NO. 230418

STATMENT FILE NO. 230418 The following person(s) are doing business as, Tri Star Transport. 10 Carolina Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Joseph L. Weatherman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 033.7199. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/01/99. APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

STATMENT FILE NO. 230224 The following person(s) are doing business as, Arts 'N Graphs. 40.1 Parker Avenue 43, San Francisco, Ca. 94.118. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Luis E. Gutlerrez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/26/99. APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

STATMENT FILE NO. 230346

STATMENT FILE NO. 230346
The following person(s) are doing business as, San Francisco Bayside Travelodge.
2011 Bayshore Bludy, San Francisco, Ca.
94134. This business is conducted by an corporation, signed Norman F. Eichelmann. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/31-99.

APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

STATMENT FILE NO.229995 The following person(s) are doing busines as, E- Central. 2358 Market Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed David conducted by an individual, signed using M. Bach. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco.

STATMENT FILE NO. 229999

THATMENT FILE NO. 229999
The following person(s) are doing business as, Integrated Healing Resources. 1380
South Van Ness Avenue San Francisco,
Ca. 9410. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gregory Okulove. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 033,199. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San
Francisco, CA on 03/19/99. Francisco, CA on 03/19/99 APR. 1,8,15,22 1999

STATMENT FILE NO. 229932 STATMENT FILE NO. 229932
The following person(s) are doing business as, Ashbury Images. 1625 Bush Street Suite #1 San Francisco, Ca., 94109. This business is conducted by an corporation, signed Randy Newcomb. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10.710/95. The statement was filled with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/17/99. APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE. CASE NO: 271861
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, con-

tingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Florence P. Chavis Aa. Florence Phylliss Chavis. A petition for probate has been filled by Alhmad A. Rasheed, in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. The petition for probate requests that Ahmad A. Rasheed, be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to administer the personal representative to administer the petition of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to the personal representativ sentative to administer the estate on the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have walved notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held on: April 28, 1999. Time: 9am Dept: #13, Room #204. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing. Vour appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 120. The time for filing claims will most expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for relationer J. W. Macneil, Esq. Law Office of Justin W. Macneil, Esq. Law Office of Justin W. Macneil, P. O. Box 26024 San Francisco, Ca. 94128-66206 (215) 434-3490 APR. 8,15,22, 1999



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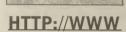
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Friday, April 30: FIFE'S Cocktail Party 6:30-7:30 p.m. followed by live entertainment by Terry Foster at 7:30 p.m.; and Karen Soo Hoo at 9:00 p.m.; DJs Chris and Lily 10:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. at the Bunkhouse. — RUSSIAN RIVER RESORT Karaoke. Saturday, May 1: FIFE'S Live entertainment poolside from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Silk Stalkings Dance in the Bunkhouse 9:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. — RUSSIAN RIVER RESORT Poolside Party and BBQ hosted by Marilyn Pittman Noon to 5:00 p.m. with DJ Lori Z, includes The Dating Game and Wet T-Shirt Contest; 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. guitarist Karen Soo Hoo; Stand-up Comedy at 9:00 p.m.; Momi Starr at the piano until 1:00 a.m.; Mariah T. presents Club Skirt at FAB (formerly River Theater)— Sunday, May 2: FIFE'S Karen Soo Hoo from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.; Live entertainment poolside. — RUSSIAN RIVER RESORT Poolside Party and BBQ hosted by Marilyn Pittman Noon to 5:00 p.m. with DJ Lori Z; Commitment Ceremony; "How to Pick Up the Woman of your Dreams" with Trish McDermott.



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Bronski beat

Living fully between deaths, in author Michael Bronski's 'Middle Ages' essay.

The residents

Artists-in-residence program thrives at YBC. page 43

Southern discomfort Robert Altman goes south in 'Cookie's Fortune.'

page 33



BAYAREAREPORTER ARTS& ENTERTAINM

Grand seducers

SF Ballet's Vadim Solomakha and Pierre-François Vilanoba prepare for Giselle by Stephanie von Buchau In the glaring light of the San Francisco Ballet's fourth-floor studio, with mirrors harshly reflecting every sweaty pore of his hard-working dancers, Helgi Tomasson is staging the final duet from *Giselle*. This is the San Francisco Ballet's first production of the famous romantic work, and artistic director Tomasson is obviously as happy as a debutante with her first mink.

with her first mink.

"Ilove this," he says during a break. "Being here in the studio, working with the dancers. It's the most pleasure you get from running a company." He is also surprisingly passionate; his usual cool Icelandic demeanor is obliterated by Théophile ("Art for Art's sake") Gautier's pathetic love story. He urges dancer Vadim Solomakha to remember, "You have betrayed her, but she forgives you. Now you'll never see her, never hold her again; you must make us feel what you are feeling."

The sweet-faced Solomakha, who partners the Shanghai-born Yuan Yuan Tan in her first-ever Giselle, looks slightly befuddled. Later he tells me it is hard to simulate "feelings" in the studio, "without costumes, lights, real music." (Rehearsal pianist Michael McGraw emphasizes the rhythmic cues with panache, but it is not quite the same thing as Adolphe Adam's confectionery scoring.) "When I am on stage," Solomakha says, "it is easy to forget about everything but the character; in rehearsal it is difficult."

The name of the ballet is Giselle, so naturally everybody thinks in terms

The name of the ballet is Giselle, so naturally everybody thinks in terms of its leading lady. Yet this 1841 two-acter concerns not just the innocent country girl Giselle, who is betrayed by her noble lover and dies of a broken heart. It is also a tale of redemption, uniquely resonant

a broken heart. It is also a tale of redemption, uniquely rescin our deeply cynical age.

Albrecht, a nobleman fooling around incognito amongst the peasants, unwittingly causes Giselle's breakdown and death. How was he to know she took their romance so seriously? Now he is doomed, by decree of Myrtha, Queen of the Wilis (ghosts of girls betrayed in love), to dance

Unless ... the ghost of Giselle can help sustain the young man until dawn, when the Wilis' power fades. Then she returns to the

page 36 ▶



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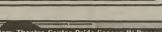


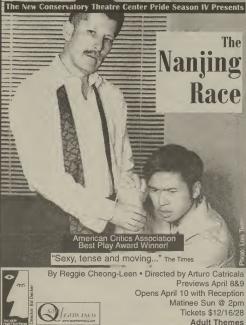
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by Roberto Friedman and Jack Boots

h springtime, and a young man's fancy turn to thoughts of... genocide. So far it hasn't been a pretty spring at all, has it, not with Yugoslav total-itarian Slobodan "the Slob" Milosevic's "ethnic cleansing" (hated term) of Kosovo finally looming in the national con-

looming in the national co sciousness, such that it is. We can only be amazed at the capacity for de-nial on the part of iso-lationists proclaiming it's "not our business!" But like fashion victim Cleopatra, there are al-ways plenty of queens of da Nile.

The flavor of fascist aggression was in the air last

week when assuredly non-fascist maestro Michael Tilson Thomas maestro Michael Ilison Inomas returned to the podium with the San Francisco Symphony and prefaced a performance of Wagner's Siegfried Idyll with an anecdote about the composer's descendant Winifred Wagner pouring Tilson Thomas tea in Bayreuth. When informed that he

Bayreuth. When informed that he took no sugar, Fraulein Wagner declared imperiously, "But the Führer took six lumps!"

Thank the Valkyries there were no goose-steps to be heard earlier in the week, when incendiary Indiana-bred violinist Joshua Bell



Joshua Bell

took the stage at Herbst Theatre accompanied by British pianist Simon Mulligan. It's true that we found both musicians to be just so Generation seX! Visited backstage after the concert, they made ejaculations like, "Cool!" and, "Neat!" Up close and person-al (so close one wanted to towel him off), Bell uttered sweet yelps

him off), Bell uttered sweet yelps of joy upon recognizing our music critic (who had penned a glamorous cover story on him for Strings magazine) and graciously accepted our own paltry offer of congratulations. One could also see "the Wound": the scar on young Bell's neck where the virtuoso's inthe virtuoso's in-strument rubs

against him in all of his dynamic thrusts of the bow. **Out There**

If one wanted to employ a eu-phemism, one might call it a hick-ey given by **Stradivarius**. All our nurturing instincts kicked in, and we wanted to salve that wound immediately

Rear window

Rear window
Filmmaker David Cronenherg's latest sci-fi opus, eXistenZ, which opens April 23, will not disappoint his fans. However, anyone with a fear of penetration from the rear should probably avoid this one — or at least take a cell phone to the screening to facilitate that 911 call. Cronenberg invents living game pods that attach vents living game pods that attach to human beings through an um-bilical cord inserted into a bioport. The bioport is a hole made at the base of a human's spine which the "UmbyCord" plugs into. For a good connection, you need lots of lube. eXistenZ scores big when humpy, terrified Jude Law lies face-down and spread-eagled as Willem Dafoe stands menacingly behind him with his large, phallic Bioport Insertion Gun cocked and ready. Law takes

Ladies' woman

Switching genders for a change, word is that the staged reading of Irish lesbian novelist Emma Donoghue's play Ladies



Emma Donoghue

and Gentlemen at the Magic Theatre had them rolling in the aisles when they weren't weeping at the How often can you say that about a staged reading? You still have a chance to catch the last weekend of the Irish Women's Playwright Fest; don't miss the fabulous Anne Darragh in Mrs. Sweeney. For info, call 441-8822.



Steven Watson

Homosexual plot

Homosexual plot
Sometimes it's good to take a
step back from the popular scene
and consider from whence we
came. Author Steven Watson's
Prepare for Saints: Gertrude
Stein, Virgil Thomson, and the
Mainstreaming of American Modernism (Random House) tells the
story of the inspired creation of lesbian icon Stein and homo com-poser Thomson's seminal opera Four Saints in Three Acts, but it also examines the cultural upalso examines the cultural up-heavals in America in the '20s and '30s, during the time of the opera's gestation. It turns out that the institutionalization of the avant-garde (MOMA, NYC Balavant-garde (MOMA, NYC Bal-let) was the work of a rather small cadre of homosexuals, many of whom began their cultural mov-ing and shaking at Harvard to-gether. Watson supplies a handy chart, with the principal players labeled "homosexual/bisexual" where appropriate. We learn that Stein tried to convince rampant ego Ernest Hemingway he was a latent homo. Also, Watson writes latent homo. Also, Watson writes of society hostess Muriel Draper: "Pointing young homosexual page 50 ▶





Virgil Thomson and Gertrude Stein



...my life as Frank Sinatra"

Starring Pam Munter



Rhino to get 'Barebacking'

New Fisher play in 2000

by Richard Dodds

ohn Fisher, the San Francisco playwright who made a merry musical out of *Medea*, is putting himself in the middle of the barebacking controversy for his newest play. Barebacking — a Sex Panic! Comedy will have its premiere as part of Theatre Rhinoceros' 1999-2000 season. Only the Fisher play and a new work by the trio Latin Hustle (Full

work by the trio Latin Hustle (Full Front Rudity) are presently locked in for the seven-show series at the veteran gay and lesbian theater. Fisher first gained Bay Area renown with such campy crossover fare as Medea — the Musical and The History of Gay Sex. His more recent works include Combat!, which looked at gays in the military during World

Sex. His more recent works include Combat!, which looked at gays in the military during World War II, and Titus!, an outdoor spectacle staged in the Yerba Buena Gardens.

His latest play will be pushing new boundaries, he said. "It will definitely be a little harder to take than the other things I've done," the gay playwright and director said. "I don't feel the need at this forum to keep the gloves on."

Fisher had become intrigued with the barebacking controversy when he read a collection of essays on the subject by noted gay activists and authors in the Harvard Gay and Lesbian Review. "I began thinking what it would be like to be coming out of the closet now that sex has become so politicized," Fisher said, "but I couldn't imagine where I would do a play about it because it's just so gay."

The idea was still germinating

The idea was still germinating when Doug Holsclaw, associate artistic director of Theatre Rhino, called Fisher to ask if there were called Fisher to ask if there were any projects he would be interested in developing at Rhino. Fisher has since laid out the plot, though the play itself is still to be written. Holsclaw and Fisher expect its premiere will be in the first months of 2000.

"Esemicially it?" a malier of the project of the p

months of 2000.
"Essentially, it's a political comedy, sort of a farce in a way," Fisher said. "It's about people making decisions, but it's not going to end with them all dying. It's not like an AIDS play."

Resistance

Fisher didn't hold strong opinions about the new advocacy of unprotected sex when he began thinking about the play, but as his research continued, he began to research continued, he began to find his sympathies leaning to-ward those who resist dictated sexual behavior. "Not that I'm pro-barebacking," he said, "but I do get very itchy about politics getting involved in these sorts of things."

Fisher plans to take the liberties that working at Theatre Phino

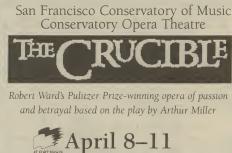
ties that working at Theatre Rhino can offer. "There will be nudity and all that stuff," he said, "and it will probably be completely gra-tuitous. But if I don't do that, I will have missed something in gay theater. I feel like it's time to drop my pants and say, 'I can do that, too, damn it. I'm not such a

In addition to *Barebacking* and the new comedy show that Latin Hustle is developing, Holsclaw said the theater is in negotiation

for Tom Eyen's camp classic Women Behind Bars and for Mark Ravenhill's Shopping and Fucking, a London hit about a triangle among two men and a woman in blue-collar London. On Holsclaw's "wish list," though probably long shots for the up-coming season, are Diana Son's 1998 off-Broadway hit Stop Kiss and Kate Clinton's solo comedy Correct Me If I'm Right. ▼







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Straight outta **Hong Kong**

Gay playwright Reggie Cheong-Leen

by Richard Dodds

or a kid in Hong Kong in the '50s, movies were the thing. American movies. "There were movies in Cantonese, but we didn't go to those," said playwright Reggie Cheong-Leen.
"Television was only on the air two hours a day, but my family didn't even have a TV. And there was no theater at all."

Cheong-Leen's early notions of theater came from the movie versions of West Side Story, My Fair Lady, and The Sound of Music, but his first cinematic memories are

his first cinematic memories are more primal. "Steve Reeves," he said, "made a big impression."

While he struggled with his sexuality, at one point even contemplating becoming a priest, the images that intrigued and tormented him were white. And when he finally did come out, he only had eyes for light-skinned gents. "I was trying to be a banana," Cheong-Leen said, "yellow on the outside and white on the inside."

His own journey of self-dis-covery as a gay Asian male has its

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Reggie Cheong-Leen

mirror in his play *The Nanjing Race*, opening this week at the New Conservatory Theatre. "Eventually, you have to face up to who you are," he said, "and writing this play was part of the process. Now I know there are beautiful people in every color."

The central figure in the play is

an American businessman of Japanese and European ancestry, who'd rather not acknowledge the Nipponese component. On a business trip to Nanjing, China, where the Japanese staged a par-ticularly brutal massacre during World War II, his usual claims to World War II, his usual claims to all-American status don't work, especially when he begins to falls in love with a hotel floor-boy obsessed with the injustices of the past. Meanwhile, another hotel valet, this one straight and desperate to get out of the country, is courting the businessman with prospects of financial rewards.

"Philip has to choose between the one who could be helpful or the other one who me really likes," Cheong-Leen said. "There's humor in it, but basically it's a tender story about three people."

The play had its first perfor-

The play had its first performance in 1993 in a staged reading at the Cleveland Public Theater's at the Cleveland Public Theater's Festival of New Plays. Its first full production came the following year at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, N.J. In 1995, it was named Best New Regional Playby the American Theater Critics Association. And then, nothing.

"Pue sent out scripts for years."

"I've sent out scripts for years, and the few theaters that responded said it was too hard to cast," Cheong-Leen said. Asian-American theater companies where the play would logically find a home weren't enthusiastic either, telling the playwright that his work didn't address their concerns.

"If you talk about The Three "If you talk about The Three Sisters, it's all these Russians running around, but it's still something people identify with," he said. "Maybe now that Asians are reaching second and third generations in this country, we'll be better able to accept who we are, and not always so eager to blend in, and then maybe can move on to real drama."

Opportunity knocks

Cheong-Leen, who has made his living for 20 years in the garment industry, had grown discouraged about playwriting when the New Conservatory Theatre called. Arturo Catricala, NCT's resident directors had bear about the property of the control of resident director, had heard about the play from a friend, and tracked down a copy of the script. Cheong-Leen had seen several re-

Cheong-Leen had seen several rehearsals when he sat down for an interview, and he was already feeling his theatrical batteries being recharged.

"After seeing this beautiful production, I realized theater is still magic for me," he said. "Arturo has brought out a lot of colors that weren't in the original production. In that production, two straight actors played the gay characters and a gay actor played the straight character. Here it is reversed, and you can call it typereversed, and you can call it type-casting, but it works better."

Cheong-Leen, 47, didn't discover the magic of the theater until he saw *Follies* on Broadway in 1971, while he was a business administration major at Notre Dame. "I first came to the United States to go to high school bestates to go to high school be-cause it was the thing to do," he said. "I had an aunt in Pittsburgh who was a good Catholic, and her priest recommended a Polish

next page



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Song of the South

Robert Altman's 'Cookie's Fortune'

by Robert Julian

obert Altman is America's most inconsistent director.

Capable of extraordinary brilliance (Nashville, The Player), he can also churn out stinkbomb like Ready to Wear and Kansas City that, for any other director, would be career-killers. Cookie's Fortune, the latest addition to the Altman catalog, falls somewhere between

catalog, falls somewhere between his two extremes. It is a sly and simple Mississippi morality tale, brought to life by colorful characters and a strong ensemble cast. Patricia Neal plays Cookie, an eccentric widow who lives in a fine Victorian home in the small town of Holly Springs, Mississippi. Cookie is a small-town Miss Daisy to her resident friend and manservant, Willis (Charles S. Dutton). But Cookie's unhappiness over the loss of her husband leads her to suicide. When her estranged nieces Camille (Glenn leads ner to suicide. When her estranged nieces Camille (Glenn Close) and Cora (Julienne Moore) find the body, they hatch a plot that ultimately backfires on the mean-spirited Camille.

Altman adopts a slow, mean-dering pace to tell this story of "just desserts," and the viewer must take pleasure in the series of wonderful moments the cast delivers — mo-ments that do not arrive swiftly. Yet it is impossible to criticize Altman's choice, because the timing of the story seems so right for the lacon-ic pace of the small backwater that is Holly Springs. Nothing happens quickly here, and if Altman approached this Southern story like Herbert Ross, we would have a film as embarrassingly false as *Steel*

Blues background

The leitmotif of *Cookie's Fortune* is the blues, and composer Dave Stewart (formerly of the Eurythmics) produces wonderfully appropriate musical accompaniapropriate insisted accompani-ment with evocative steel guitar riffs that underscore the action. Cinematographer Toyomichi Ku-rita captures the overly familiar, claustrophobic feel of a small Mis-sissippi Delta town in all its self-

claustrophobic feel of a small Mississippi Delta town in all its self-conscious glory; and Dona Granata's costumes clearly delineate the right from the wrong side of the tracks. Although Julianne Moore and Glenn Close take the female acting honors, Charles S. Dutton provides the film's most irresistible charm as the endearing, loyal Willie. His is a performance of subtlety and quiet confidence.

Altman's Mississippi rogues gallery includes Liv Tyler as the slatternly Emma; Chris O'Donnell as the young cop who can't keep his hands off her; Donald Moffat as the avuncular town lawyer; and Ned Beatty as the local police lieutenant. This assemblage of small town Southern archetypes is made believable by the talented cast and Altman's universally acknowledged skill for getting actors to work at the top of their form. Anne Rapp's getting actors to work at the top of their form. Anne Rapp's screenplay gives the actors an opportunity to define the gravity of each character's dilemma without ever losing the wonderful sense of goofball humor that lurks just below the surface. There are many below the surface. There are many funny moments in Cookie's Fortune, and although the whole remains less than the sum of its parts, it still works — with that quintessentially Southern attitude of, "Ah really should go conquer the world, but it's so hot this year, Ah muse Abell in the Abell to the Abell Ah guess Ah'll just have to stay right here and see what sort of mischief Ah can stir up." ▼

Cookie's Fortune opens Friday, April 9 at Bay Area theatres.



Glenn Close in a scene from Robert Altman's Cookie's Fortune

Cheona-Leen

previous page

seminary in Erie." And so, at Christmas, he found himself singing Christmas carols in Pol-

When it came time to apply to colleges, he was channeled toward Catholic universities. He had a choice between Fordham in New York and Notre Dame in Indiana. "I think if I had discovered New York City at that time, I would have gone into Greenwich Village and never resurfaced."

Instead, he found himself at Notre Dame surrounded by "all these beautiful and healthy jocks, but totally not open to anything." He finally found his way out of

SALE ENDS APRIL 18TH

the closet back in Hong Kong, when a bohemian cousin who had

when a bohemian cousin who had studied at Berkeley introduced him to some of her gay friends. "But I was miserable in Hong Kong," he said. "It's very small in both space and mentality, and I both space and mentality, and I felt claustrophobic. And my father was in politics, and I didn't want to jeopardize his situation." Cheong-Leen returned to the United States, becoming a citizen in the 1980s.

in the 1980s.

Chinese was the first language in the Cheong-Leen household, with English as a close second. "When you write in English," he said, "but when English is a learned language, you're not constrained by the normal rules of grammar and usage, and you're free to reinvent it."

Cheong-Leen is job-free at the moment, as he takes stock of life and career, but his dream is to put more Asians on stage, to create both roles and understanding.

both roles and understanding. "And I want to promote the Asian man as a sex object," he said.

Has he found romance in life own life? "Repeatedly," Cheong-Leen replied. "I love the intense passion of falling in love, and I'm always trying to recreate that. Artistic people want that intensity of feeling that most people avoid of feeling that most people avoid." of feeling that most people avoid. I'm not satisfied just tasting the pleasures of life. I'm greedy."

The Nanjing Race will run at the New Conservatory Theatre through May 8. Tickets are \$12 and \$16. Call 861-8972.





Animation nightmare

'Spike and Mike's Fest' at the Castro

by Gary Morris

ne of the pleasures of the ne of the pleasures of the counterculture that was thought to have disappeared along with paper dresses and liberals is the "head" movie—you know, films like El Topo or 2001 or Liquid Sky that, while hoping for big mainstream audiences, were thought to be secretly aimed at stoners. And it's certainly arguable that the last 20 minutes of 2001 or the entirety of El Topo were best appreciated in El Topo were best appreciated in an altered state of consciousness.

But the phenomenon has continued to thrive in at least one venue: the Spike and Mike Festival of Animation. This annual collec-tion of what's touted as the best in recent short animation has enough narrative non-sequiturs, existential angst, and antisocial activities to appeal to its drug-swilling demographic of 18-30-year-olds. The downside is that

you might have to take drugs in order to endure some of the en-tries in this often tiresome mix of visual pyrotechnics and concep-tual clichés.

The first short, Pierre Coffin's Pings, points to the larger limitations of the series. Having cute 'n' cuddly creatures like the Pings attacked by some malevolent or mindless force filigrees this festival, but it was done better 50 years ago by Tex Avery, who made an art of assaulting the Disney school of sentimental animation. Pings' painfully predictable litany in this realm — one Ping is squashed by a polar bear, another is eaten by a shark — is more stultifying than shocking, and seems too thin even for the brief 3-minute running time. The first short, Pierre Coffin's

seems too thin even for the brief
3-minute running time.
Another problem is that too
many of these shorts devote endless resources — the credits are
sometimes as long as the films —
and elaborate technical strategies
to dress up a lack of ideas. Eric

Fernandes' Son of Bambi Meets Godzilla is a case in point. This update of Marv Newland's classic 1969 Bambi Meets Godzilla has Pixar-perfect computer anima-tion, but it's all for naught: while Bambi grazes, a big gun pops out of the ground and kills Godzilla. That's it. It's doubtful there's enough acid in the world to make this waste of time palatable. (The inclusion of Newland's homely,

inclusion of Newland's homely, endearing original only emphasizes how bad the sequel is.)

A wobbly-voiced Judy Garland singing "More" is the only plus in Busby, Anna Henckel-Donnemarck's technically polished but pointless homage to Busby Berkeley. The filmmaker substitutes boring configurations of hands for Berkeley's fun fascist geometrics, and even her choice of "More" is suspect. Why not "By a Waterfall" or "Lullaby of Broadway" or another song actually associated with Berkeley?

Christa Moesker's Sientje of-



From 1969's Bambi Meets Godzilla

fers a blueprint for riot grrrls with a fat-thighed little brat who terrorizes her teddy bear, and

grows to mammoth proportions and stomps all over screaming adults. Moesker's lack of inspiration is evident in the film's copout "it's only a fantasy" ending. Luc Otter's VHS/CarrHot is a beautiful but brainless exercise in high technique distinguished only by the distressing image of an animated carrot being raped — grated, that is — by an animated grater.

Camp figures

Happily, there are a handful of entries here that may linger in the mind when the lights go down. Christophe and Wolfgang Lauenstein's Balance has the skewed-realistic look of a Magritte painting as five hollow-eyed men, dressed alike with numbers painted on their back try despreately to stay. alike with numbers painted on their backs, try desperately to stay upright on a mysterious flat slab floating in the air. Reading the film as a Holocaust allegory — impossible to avoid — adds

Emma Calder's The Queen's Monastery benefits by avoiding the curse of obvious computer imagery. This award-winning short uses engagingly simple lines and splashes of watercolor to suggest a house, a room, a love affair, and even a war, as battle explosions are virgulared in a rot of sions are visualized in a riot of

Digital Domain's Tightrope, about a jester's battle with a masked man as they both traverse a tightrope, also gains by subvert-ing the pompous parading of computer technique that afflicts computer technique that afflicts most of the entries here. It's extremely polished, but uses its sheen to powerful effect, as if its characters, both of them chillingly near-real, are trapped in a convincing pseudo-reality, with the tightrope bouncing tenuously in the foreground and a mysterious choking fog in the background. Queer audiences will enjoy the gay subtext, as the queenly jester guer audiences will enjoy the gay subtext, as the queenly jester initially tries to befriend/seduce the masked man with preening, mincing gestures and expres-sions. But this queen proves to be a skilled adversary, too, smiling and fluttering his eyelashes as he

poignancy and a pervasive sense of disquiet.

Emma Calder's The Queen's

casually unleashes an arsenal of unlikely weapons — a yo-yo, a juggler's ball — on the fatally uncooperative masked man.

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Neato bosso Keanu

Keanu Reeves rides 'The Matrix'

by Tim Nasson

ore than a decade has passed since Keanu Reeves entertained high school kids throughout the world as half of the comic duo of Bill and Ted in the two Bill and Ted... adven-

tures.

Before that, Reeves stole *The River's Edge* in 1986, and Gus Van Sant's *My Own Private Idaho*, two films much different from either of the *Bill and Teds* or his most recent endeavor, *The Matrix*.

In a recent interview, Reeves, not your average lose was some

not your average Joe, was some-what hesitant to reveal a lot about himself, but gradually through the nimseit, but gradually through the time we spent together opened up quite a bit and discussed his somewhat eccentric childhood and his new film *The Matrix* — in which he did all of his own stunts — in great detail.

Keany whose pages is obvi

— in great detail.

Keanu, whose name is obviously not a common one, is the personification of a real melting pot of nationalities. He was born in Beirut to an American mother and a half-Hawaiian, half-Chinese father. His present progression of the property of the prope father. His parents met in Beirut while his mother was working as a showgirl in a local club. His father

showgirl in a local club. His father was working as a geologist. The family soon moved to Australia, where Keanu's younger sister was born in 1966. Soon afterward, his parents divorced, and his mother carted her children to New York City, where she met Broadway and Hollywood producer Paul Aaron. Their marriage did not last more than a year, yet they had already moved again, this time to Toronto, where the this time to Toronto, where the family attained Canadian citizenship, which Keanu still retains.

There were two more men in Keanu's life during his adolescence. First was the rock 'n' roll promoter Robert Miller. Keanu's mother's fourth husband was Jack Bond, a hair salon owner whom when diversed in 1004.

Bond, a hair salon owner whom she divorced in 1994.

Through all his stepdads, Keanu had a wide variety of experiences. "I got a chance to wrestle with rocker Alice Cooper," he said, "and I spent a lot of time one year in a Jewish summer camp.

"I last saw my real father when I was 13, when I took a trip to Hawaii," he added.
Keanu described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bour-inded of the same described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bour-inded of the same described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bour-inded of the same described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bour-inded of the same described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bour-inded of the same described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bour-inded of the same described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bour-inded of the same described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bour-index of the same described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bour-index of the same described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bour-index of the same described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bour-index of the same described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bour-index of the same described himself as a "middle-class" white boy.

Keanu described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bourgeois, middle-class white boy with an absent father, a strong-willed mother, and two beautiful sisters." At a young age, Keanu divided his spare time between hockey and theater. "I sometimes mixed the two by reciting Shakespeare while tending goal during a hockey game."

Dressed in a black V-neck T-shirt under a green sport jacket, and blue jeans, Keanu sat com-fortably in a suite at the Ritz Carl-ton in Pasadena for our interview. ton in Pasadena for our interview. Fingernails painted black, face unshaven, red string wrapped around his left wrist, and hair going in more directions than Bill Clinton's missiles, he looked more like his alter ego from the rock group Dogstar he formed ten years ago than a conventional movie star.

The star of *The Matrix* — the sophomore effort of the Wachowski Brothers, the team responsible for the lesbian thriller Bound — got his start in acting at



Keanu Reeves in a scene from The Matrix

his Toronto high school and then "luckily landed a couple of roles in television commercials and re-

gional plays."

Reeves' first big break, the one Reeves' first big break, the one that got him noticed by the big guys, came when he secured the starring role in the homoerotic play Wolfboy in Toronto, after he had dropped out of high school at the age of 17.

Keanu took the big step of leaving Canada behind and meeting up with his stepfather Paul Aaron, the producer, in 1986. "My

ing up with his stepiatner raused Aaron, the producer, in 1986. "My first manager thought my name 'Keanu' was too exotic," Reeves reveals. "So we changed it to K.C. Reeves. For about a minute. I was named Keanu, and that is what I was tad to be known as "

named Keanu, and that is what I wanted to be known as."

At 23, Keanu took up another hobby that he had been passionate about for years but had never had the courage to toy with. "I started playing the bass," he said, "and loved it and have been doing it ever since, touring with my band Dogstar."

In fact, Reeves has turned

In fact, Reeves has turned down roles in films so that he could tour the world with his

Some of the films he has passed on have ended up being better missed. For example, he adamantly refused to star in the sequel to his box-office smash Speed. I asked him if he thought his decision to turn that film down had canthing to de with down had anything to do with

down had anything to do with good intuition.

"I don't know," he answered.

"But in any event, all's well that turns out well."

Lately, and throughout his life, it seems, everything has turned up roses for the versatile actor. Laist seem on screen on screen on the seem of the seems of the se seen on screen opposite Al Pacino in *The Devil's Advocate*, Keanu took a chance on another action film, this one adding sci-fi into the

According to the directors Wa-According to the directors Wachowski, whom I spoke to earlier in the day, "The comic book and graphic novel culture has long examined the dramatic possibilities of alternate realities — places where the laws of physics, biology or time are made to be broken." "We grew up exploring ideas that challenge the current perceptions of reality," said Larry Wachowski. "And we began our writing careers developing those ideas.

ing careers developing those ideas.

The Matrix grew out of the unconventional literature that we read as well as our long-time in-terest in and knowledge of classic mythology and legend.

"We believe passionately in the importance of mythology and the way it informs culture," he added.

Looking good

The directors' decision to cast Keanu had a lot to do with the actor's good looks.

"Keanu has a boyish quality about him that was perfect for the role, but at the same time he has a maturity that allows his character to develop and eventually take control of the situation," Larry concluded. concluded.

Keanu responded, "When I first read the script I thought it first read the script I thought it was pretty amazing. It has a great combination of crazy action, extraordinary characters and some interesting themes. And Larry and Andy are such great guys — very generous and very kind. It all evolved into something I hadn't seen before in a film — a meeting of heart and soul and spirit and action.

action.
"I play an interesting character named Thomas Anderson, known later as Neo. He is someone who is alienated from the world around him and indeed very sus-

around him and indeed very suspicious of life itself. He is searching for something that will somehow make sense of his life, and believes that Morpheus, Laurence Fishburne's character, has the answers to all of his questions."

Filmed on location in Australia — "because the costs could be kept down" — The Matrix takes place in a universe run by computers using human beings as batteries for bio-electrical energy. This "people power" fuels the artificial intelligence known as The Matrix, which has created a virtual reality to make its inhabitants think they are living happy, creal reality to make its inhabitants think they are living happy, creative and productive lives. But in reality, they are only providing the energy that keeps The Matrix going. There are, however, a few human beings, including Morpheus (Fishburne) and Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss), who have broken free from The Matrix and are searching to destroy it. re-

broken free from The Matrix and are searching to destroy it, recruiting Neo along the way.

Though Reeves was seen in a sci-fi movie a couple of years ago, the dreadful Johnny Mhemonic, he is hopeful and confident that The Matrix will keep him on the list of employable actors.

"I'm hopeful that I can remain successful enough so that people want to continue to hire me," he said. "I love making movies, but I

said. "I love making movies, but I want to make movies that make money." ▼



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SF Ballet

■ Arts cover

grave, leaving Albrecht with the sobering knowledge that he destroyed her — but also that she loved him enough to forgive his betrayal. This is a three-hanky affair when it is done right, and the Albrecht is every bit as impor-tant as the Giselle.

Leading three

In mid-March, when I In mid-March, when began working on this piece, Tomasson was rehearsing five couples, of whom the leading three — barring injuries — would dance the opening weekend: Lucia Lacarra, a 23-year-old Spanish ballerina paired with Yuri Possokhov, SFB's resident hunk; Tan and Solomakha, the most physically rophysically ro-mantic of the couples, with their soft attack and floating line; and Joan-na Berman, perennially unlucky with partners (they seem to be either injured or clue-less), who may just have hit the

less), who may just have hit the jackpot with newcomer Pierre-François Vilanoba.

The 6'1" Frenchman with the sherry-colored eyes and chiseled cheekbones is excited about his first Albrecht. (Solomakha has performed the role in Japan, with Nagoya's Ochi Ballet, where he danced off-and-on for three years after emigrating from his native Ukraine.) Vilanoba, who danced with the Paris Opera Ballet for nearly a decade, followed his wife,

Vadim Solomakha (right) and Pierre-François Vilanoba (left)

SFB corps member Rachel Rufer, to San Francisco, where they enthuse about the city, the ballet company and Tomasson's leadership. Both Solomakha and Vilanoba

Both Solomakha and Vilanoba give their boss high marks for his sensitivity to their physical needs. (So often, ballet companies treat dancers like cannon fodder.) Solomakha needed a foot operation shortly after joining SFB in 1995, but Tomasson assured him the company would wait for his recovery. Solomakha admits that now other ballet companies have

been after him but, "There is no reason to change; I have no complaints here, and I trust Helgi."

Both young men, different physically and in personality — Solomakha is all shy, sideways glances, while Vilanoba looks at you with an eagle's haughty stare — have the same romantic take on Giselle, rather surprising in today's under-thirty generation. Vilanoba says simply, "It is beautiful, deep and powerful." Solomakha echoes, "The music tells you everything, and the ending is very dramatic, very sad." very dramatic, very sad.

Romantic men

My first Albrecht was Igor Youskevitch with Ballet Theatre in the '50s. Lean and saturnine, he Youskevitch with Ballet Theatre in the '50s. Lean and saturnine, he haunted my dreams for decades; if you were going to be seduced and abandoned, this was the way to go. Other notable Albrechts in my ballet experience have been Donald MacLeary, Anthony Dowell and Rudolf Nureyev (with the Royal Ballet), Russians Nicolai Fadeyechev, Vladimir Vasiliev and Andris Liepa, and ABT's Mikhail Baryshnikov and Wes Chapman.

My two favorite Albrechts, however, were the Danish Erik Bruhn and the Hungarian Ivan Nagy. Bruhn was the greater allaround dancer and artist, but Nagy was the most handsome, romantic male dancer I've ever seen. His greatest strength — in addition to his impercable manners.

His greatest strength — in addition to his impeccable manners — was the way he presented his ballerina. With just one look, he convinced the audience they were

watching the most adorable, cher-

watching the most adorable, cherishable, wonderful woman alive.
Solomakha, though younger and less sophisticated than Nagy was when he defected to America, reminds me of the Hungarian danseur. Their similar willowy physique conceals the leg strength that makes them such good partners. Their personal modesty on stage, such a relief from the inyer-face arrogance that characterizes many male dancers today, is both touching and makes Albrecht a more convincing seducer in my view. Even a country girl could see through

girl could see through a self-absorbed, swag-gering cad like gering cad like
Nureyev, however
thrilling he may
have been.
You have to feel
that Albrecht is

that Albrecht is worth saving; it adds a layer of poetry and poignancy cy to a ballet already loaded with both. However, all dance drama is achieved by music and movement; acting and bravura don't cut it if musicality is missing. Giselle is a special case because it is not a "classical" ballet. That term is reserved for turn-of-the-century heroic epics like the three great Tchaikovsky ballets currently in SFB's repertory.

Tchaikovsky ballets currently in SFB's repertory.

It takes stamina, technique, theatricality to perform those pieces well, as SFB has proved. But Giselle is something more, a product of an earlier age — half a century before the definitive Swan Lake production. Despite its Rhineland setting, it is a quintessential French ballet and requires a style not easily achieved by today's hard-edged technicians. The movement, originally choreographed by Jules Perrot and Jean Coralli, though much altered in

ographed by Jules Perrot and Jean Coralli, though much altered in 158 years, is softer, more poetic than what we consider classical.

This is why the ideal Albrecht isn't necessarily the most macho dancer in a company. Tomasson danced Albrecht and, though I never saw him in the role, I'd bet the farm his style was similar to Bruhn's or Nagy's. If he can pass on even half that poetry and yearning for beauty to Solomakha and Vilanoba — and also to Possokhov, Roman Rykine, Maynard Parrish and any other SFB men Sokinov, Roman Rykine, Majnard Parrish and any other SFB men technically up to role — we may all think we've died and been transported to the Paris Opéra, circa 1840. ▼

San Francisco Ballet's Giselle plays the War Memorial Opera House April 8-18. Tickets are \$12-115. Call 865-2000.



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Baby Bell

Violinist Joshua Bell's SF recital at Herbst Theatre

by Tim Pfaff

or someone who still looks shockingly like the postadolescent who became one of the first young musicians the record companies exploited for their sex appeal, Joshua Bell has matured, artistically, beyond the

wildest dreams of critic like me, who, in the early '80s, received a press kit that looked and felt like the basest pandering to the pre-sumed sexual preferences of the music press. (Okay, there were

transcon-Notes From All Over

phone calls than usual that week, but what does that prove?) His mag-nificent recital for San Francisco Performances at Herbst Theatre last week — a beautifully balanced program, handsomely played start to finish — was al-most enough to banish the image of those stone-washed jeans for

I say almost because Bell's sen-I say almost because Bell's sen-sual connection with his instru-ment and physical response to the music (this avid golfer makes any number of phrases look like good tee-shots with elegant follow-through) add to the pleasure of his performance — and he still dresses smartly. He, in a loose post-Nehru black shirt and slacks, and his accompanist, the young British pianist Simon Mulligan in tails over a white T-shirt, were, in my companion's astute observation, the picture of "Generation Severs"

Their playing was masterful from the start — taut, energized, penetrating and drop-dead beau-tiful. The balance be-

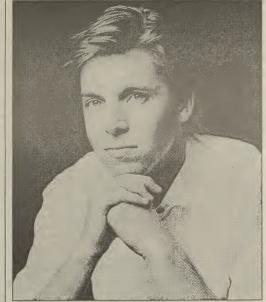
tween the instru-ments, critical to the success of Schubert's Sonatina in D Major, D. 384, was ineffably right. Where the violin rightly took the lead, in the

tral Andante, Bell let the long, shapely melody soar. The pair shapely melody soar. The pair traded the shared material in the brisk outer movements with suavity and, when appropriate,

enormous brio.

The sonatas of Opus 30 were a highlight of Anne-Sophie Mutter's and Lambert Orkis' traversal of the complete cycle of the ten Beethoven sonatas for piano and violin last fall, but Bell and Mulligan in no way suffered by comparison in the ensuing reading of parison in the ensuing reading of the Sonata No. 7 in C Minor, Op. 30, No. 2. It was a deeply gestural reading from both men, sensitive to both the keen interplay be-

enormous brio.



Joshua Bell

tween the instruments and the tween the instruments and the composer's classical rhetoric. Like their predecessors, Bell and Mulligan left no note or phrase unconsidered while simultaneously keeping their interpretation safely this side of fussy. Still, little things counted, though they all were marshaled into a cogent tracing of the work's strong architecture.

What's always impressed me about Bell's playing is his grasp of whole movements and the line of a piece start to finish. Vivid as any phrase or figure may be, it has a

a piece start to finish. Vivid as any phrase or figure may be, it has a place — and a deftly gauged one — in trajectory that seems fully conceived before it is begun. Hot spots of in-the-moment spontaneity along the way seem the more vivid for having a context, and Bell's beautifully dispatched or reaments were not only mean. ornaments were not only meaningful, they were knock-outs.

Exhibitionist encore

The pair's sure feeling for idiom translated directly into a searing account of Bartôk's Rhapsody No. 1 and a yet more ravishing one of the tricky, mercurial Romanian Dances, Bell's haunting harmonics in the latter marked harmonics in the latter marked one of the expressive high-points of the evening, and his accom-plished gypsy fiddling elsewhere was engaged and engaging. Wieniawski's Variations on an Original Theme — a last-minute add-on that Bell called "an encore whether you want it or not" — provided the expected exhibitionist music for the fiddlephiles, but Bell's consummate taste in such virtuoso fare, and his uncommon security and sweetness of tone in the stratospheric passages, an-chored the virtuoso displays in a

deep musicality.

As a recitalist, Bell has been highly adventurous in choosing partners, having performed with powerhouse pianists as individual as Olli Mustonen and Jean-Yves Thibaudet. The risks have sometimes showed. In his last recital for San Francisco Performances, with Thibaudet, there was as much competition as collabora-tion, and the results were mixed. Mulligan turns out to be a major find and something of an ideal match for him. And I, for one,

wouldn't mind if San Francisco

Performances brought Mulligan back for a solo recital. At any rate, the pair's lithe, smoky readings of Gershwin's Three Preludes in the familiar Heifetz transcriptions emerged even more appealing than on Gershwin Fantasy, Bell's recent debut CD for Sony Classical (where he plays them with John Williams) and a high-water mark Williams) and a high-water mark of the Gershwin centennial just past. That CD also included the premiere recording of a delectable new Fantasy for Violin and Orchestra on Porgy and Bess, by Alexander Courage, in which Bell reportedly had a strongly shaping band.

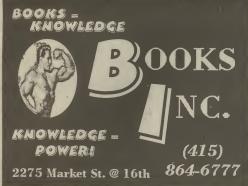
Due out soon is the commercial release of the film *The Red Vi*olin, by director Francois Gerard, whose 32 Short Films about Glenn Gould four years ago broke important new ground in music-themed movies. Bell is the violinist on the soundtrack and even has a several-second cameo, though he dares fans to find him in the 18th-century costume and sideburns. The soundtrack CD will also include *The Red Violin* Chaconne the violinist commissioned from composer John Corigliano and premiered with the San Francisco Symphony last

Bell makes music in more ways than just playing. Increasingly he composes his own cadenzas for the major concertos, and he always seems involved with some ways seems involved with some new commission or other. His taut, beautifully planned and ideally realized recital at the Herbst hardly needed another encore—and in truth kept its shape better for not indulging one—but I had hoped, as I have for three years now, that he'd play "Air," a tenminute piece Aaron Jay Kernis wrote for him. Thankfully, the piece, in a version orchestrated by the composer that Bell has not yet played publicly, will appear on an Argo CD of new Kernis pieces due for imminent release. for imminent release.

The Bay Area has been fortu-nate to hear a number of impor-tant works by Kernis, one of the best and most original composers

next page







SF Symphony springs forward

Roberto Abbado debuts, MTT returns

by Philip Campbell

fter two weeks of spectacularly successful program-ming, the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) is entering the season of spring with vigor and style. March went out like the proverbial lion with Rossini's Sta-Proverbal non with Rossini s Stabat Mater, and the week of Passover and Easter saw Michael Tilson Thomas, back from hiatus, in a delightful preview of the upcoming Stravinsky festival in Iune.



Conductor Roberto Abbado

Regular patrons at Davies Hall were jolted back from the slow pace set by Herbert Blomstedt's annual guest conducting stint with the SFS debut of young Roberto Abbado. The nephew of

Roberto Abbado. The nephew of renowned conductor Claudio Abbado, Roberto has been making a name for himself in the opera world, and he was wise to choose Rossini's religious masterpiece to introduce himself here.

There is more than a whiff of operatic greasepaint in the big tunes and glorious choruses of the Stabat Mater. It remains a beautiful and pious work, but as one wag remarked, "That's the happiest piece of sad music I know." Without the pervasive somberness of Verdi's Requiem, Rossini's score is nevertheless comparable in using theatrical flourishes to make a sacred statement.

The sorrows of the mother of Christ are portrayed in a sequence

Christ are portrayed in a sequence of arias, duets, quartets and choruses, accompanied by full or-chestra. Roberto Abbado was in confident control of his large forces, and he coaxed them to powerful effect. The mood of reappropriate, with many moments of startling intensity.

The big surprise of the evening was Peruvian tenor Juan Diego Flórez. His smoldering good looks and ringing voice brought great excitement to the first aria, "Cujus

Animam Gementem." Also making his local debut, Flórez should be snapped up by the Opera management quickly. Slight only in stature, he is a real presence on the brink of a promising career.

The other soloists were also exceptional. Sourage, Patricia.

ceptional. Soprano Patricia Racette and mezzosoprano Susanne Mentzer displayed beauti-ful tone in both large and intimate moments, and bass Roberto Scandiuzzi was more than able to fill the hall with rich sound. Vance George's Symphony Chorus George's Symphony Chorus sounded predictably full and lushly harmonious.

The evening began with principal cellist Michael Grebanier essaying the solo role in Ernest Bloch's Schelomo. Anyone who does not know this defly orchested and account of the solo role in Ernest Bloch's Schelomo. trated and moving piece should hasten to hear it. Grebanier is not a "star" performer, but his thoughtful and technically secure performance seemed just right for Bloch's alternately meditative and extroverted "Hebraic Rhapsody."
The orchestra was in beautiful communion with their colleague.

Center stage

Last week, MTT breezed in with a foretaste of what he has in store for us in June, before he turns the podium over to a string of guest conductors in the inter-im. I saw him recently on Union Street, walking his big poodle and looking very hip in black jeans and a letterman's jacket. It was a and a letterman's Jacket. It was a San Francisco vignette that had me thinking of what a fixture he has become here. When he walks to center stage at Davies Hall, he is also at the center of Bay Area

music-making.

His Good Friday concert opened with a very big performance of Wagner's lovely Siegfried Idyll. Written as a birth-Siegried Idyll. Written as a birth-day morning surprise for Cosima Wagner and scored for small chamber forces, the concert ver-sion is more typically Wagnerian. Of course, MTT couldn't resist showing off the beautiful new sonority he has encouraged from his orchestra and, if this Idyll was far from an early morning serfar from an early morning sere-nade, it was a sweet eye-opener on its own terms.

Big name, big guy, big star bari-tone Thomas Hampson then joined the orchestra for Mahler's Songs of a Wayfarer. He was not in the best of voice, but he compensated with ringing power at times and sustained a sense of sadderbut-wiser intimacy in the quieter moments. His German is not per-fectly idiomatic, yet he clearly has a genuine grasp of the words, and he conveyed a perfectly tasteful "con-cert" style. His slight detachment

only added poignancy and irony.

After intermission he returned

for Debussy's Trois Ballades de François Villon. Hampson's voice seemed perfectly suited to these delicate masterpieces. The archaic French could hardly be deemed unidiomatic in his pronunciation — who would know the difference? The important thing was the cumulative effect, and by the time Hampson twinkled his way through the concluding paean to the women of Paris, he had the audience in the palm of his hand. As always, Tilson Thomas graciously avoided stealing any of the thunder from his guest artist. He got his chance to tear the place up with his own no-holds-barred in-

got his chance to tear the place up with his own no-holds-barred in-terpretation of what he called Stravinsky's "take no prisoners" Symphony in Three Movements. If Stravinsky is indeed the com-

It Stravinsky is indeed the composer of the twentieth century (he certainly gets my vote), then this Symphony and MTT's take on it make a good Exhibit A.

With a breathtaking encore from The Firebird, MTT made a real "spring forward" and more than likely sold a considerable number of tickets to the June Stravinsky festival. There are several interesting programs before eral interesting programs before then, but I urge music lovers to leave room on their schedule for the Stravinsky celebration.









Notes From...

previous page

working in America - not the working in America — not the least of them the surpassingly beautiful Colored Field, written for the San Francisco Symphony's English horn virtuoso Julie Ann Cincoberic di English horn virtuoso Julie Ann Giacobassi (long my single fa-vorite player in the orchestra), premiered by the Symphony and recorded by it for Argo. On April

12, the ace Peabody Trio (graduates of the San Francisco Conservatory) will give the eagerly awaited local premiere of Kernis' *The Four Seasons of Futurist Cuisine*. A word to the wise...

word to the wise...
Even in a week of string-player thrills, it was hard to top seeing the Symphony's associate principal cellist, Peter Shelton, back on the Davies Hall stage. It's nice to have you back where you belong, Peter. ▼











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Natural acts

Plenty of homosex in the animal kingdom

by Rod O'Neal

Biological Exuberance: Animal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity by Bruce Bagemihl, Ph.D.; St. Martin's Press, \$40

irds do it! Bees do it!" And (forgive me, Cole Porter) even gay manatees do it! But what they do is not anything Jerry Falwell would like us to see. According to Bruce Bagemihl in Biological Exuberance, Animal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity, the evidence is in: homosexuality and ransgendered behavior is pervasive in the animal world. So saying, one of the most oftenused arguments in the ongoing debate on homosexuality's place in the natural order has just met its natural match.

Until recently, animal behav-

Until recently, animal behaviorists have generally weighed in on the "unnatural" side of the debate: homosexual behavior is something uniquely human, not something that occurs in nature. This book may do much to reverse this perception. In nearly 800 pages of tightly argued evidence, Bagemihl presents observations of over 400 animal species. His conclusion: not only do homosexual and transgendered behaviors abound in the animal kingdom, but sexual behavior in general is much more varied and pleasure-focused than previously thought. The world, as it turns out, is a very queer place indeed.

indeed.

The first of two parts, "A Polysexual, Polygendered World" establishes homosexual and transgendered behavior as integral parts of animal life, challenges the prejudices of the scientific community, exposes fallacies in the many theories trivializing these behaviors, and presents a new paradigm that celebrates the diversity of life and embraces a full sexual spectrum.

Part 2, "A Wondrous Bestiary" provides detailed descriptions of over 190 species (primarily birds and mammals) with documented homosexual or transgendered behavior, including descriptions of alternative heterosexual behaviors that don't quite fit the tidy "Family Values" book of sexual etiquette.

Male bonding

Literally teeming with examples, the book begins by simply listing observed forms of homosexual and transgender behavior in five general categories:

general categories:
affection, sex,
courtship, pair-bonding and parenting. What could be more affectionate than two male bats, wings
gently embracing, nuzzling each
other's penis; or two male giraffes
"necking" (long necks wrapped
around each other), engaged in an
erotic dance of licking and sniffing; or two female Bonobo
chimps French-kissing while
manually stimulating each other's
clitoris?

clitoris?

Or demonstrate greater sexual virtuosity than two male dolphins, one inserting his penis into the other's blow-hole, spiraling together through the water; or two whales, side-by-side, prehensile penises entwined; or a pair of female hedgehogs writhing on the ground in the thralls of mutual oral sex?

oral sex?

Or show more meaningful and permanent bonding (some for life, even in species not normally known for long-term straight couples) than pairs, trios and sometimes quartets of lesbian grizzly bears raising their cubs; or two male lions defending each other from the sexual advances of others; or the promiscuous, open sexual relationships of male flamingos, who nevertheless stay together season after season?

And what of those issues that

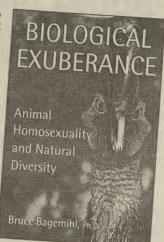
And what of those issues that even now divide the human gay community? Bisexuality: It occurs in more than half of the mammal and bird species showing same-sex behavior, including stable, sexual trios of Canada geese (2 females and 1 male) and black swans (2 males and 1 female).

swans (2 males and 1 female).

Gender issues: Consider whiptail lizards — not a male among them — lesbian reptiles who court and mate, then give virgin birth to daughter clones of themselves; or ruffs (a type of sandpiper) with four varieties of males, each sporting different plumage advertising sexual roles: some strictly homosexual, some bisexual, some entirely celibate.

And transvestite/transgender

And transvestite/transgender behavior? Bagemihl devotes much energy elaborating on animals who physically "disguise" themselves as the other sex, as well as those who behave like the opposite sex. For example, in bighorn sheep, males and females live most of the year in sex-segregated herds. Certain boy sheep, however, prefer to live with the girls. In a particularly ironic twist, while males in male herds frequently engage in homosexual activities year-round, males in the female herd act just like the girls — only



letting males mount them in the

mating season.

The list goes on — pederasty, incest, interspecies sex (chimps and Savanna baboons often get it on), tools (orangutans are quite handy with dildos, thank you), and if you thought we invented gay beaches, think again. Male walruses have had exclusive seaside hide-aways for quite some time. And speaking of exclusive, you simply have to be gay to join some clubs of mallard drakes (males only, please!).

Taking on Science

In later chapters, Bagemihl takes on the scientific community, challenging their preconceptions and exposing fallacies in the many theories invoked to explain away homosexuality and transgender behavior: theories such as homosexuality which one of you is the female?); homosexuality as dominance assertion (I'll mount you to put you in your place, but I'm not really gay); or homosexuality as a result of opposite sex scarcity (females have sex when males aren't around — the "prison syndrome"). Sound familiar?

Biological Exuberance, unfortunately, is not an easy read. It is too dense to be easily rewarding for those not into animal behavior texts, even with its richly detailed examples and photographs. And

Biological Exuberance, unfortunately, is not an easy read. It is too dense to be easily rewarding for those not into animal behavior texts, even with its richly detailed examples and photographs. And while I would encourage anyone to read it, I do not expect it to make its way to many home bookshelves. I do very much look forward to seeing its impact on the scientific disciplines it sets out to berate.

In the final chapter, Bagemihl presents his own synthesis of the philosophies and mythologies of indigenous human cultures with recent scientific trends (Chaos

In the final chapter, Bagemihl presents his own synthesis of the philosophies and mythologies of indigenous human cultures with recent scientific trends (Chaos Theory, Biodiversity, Gaia Theory and General Economy) to create a new approach to animal (and human) sexuality, for which he coins the term "biological exuber-ance." This effort is less successful. What starts out as cogent, tightly woven and well-presented turns wistful and vaguely unsatisfying.

what starts out as cogent, ignly woven and well-presented turns wistful and vaguely unsatisfying. Bagemihl's message, though, is rampantly optimistic and contagious: Life's infinite variety is a pure celebration and full expression of earth's biological exuberance. To steal one of his quotes: "The universe is not only queerer than we suppose, it is queerer than we can suppose." And thank Gaia for that!

Killing us softly

Cunanan case book is a crime

by Robert Julian

Vulgar Favors by Maureen Orth; Delacorte Press, \$24.95

anity Fair journalism, at its best, reflects the art of the subtle innuendo, delivered with subtle finderloo, delivered softlo voce by an elegant woman who hides her whispers behind bejeweled fingers. At its worst, it is scurrilous half-truths and outrascurrilous half-truths and outra-geous gossip coated in a layer of objectivity thinner than chiffon. Maureen Orth, who trailed gay serial killer Andrew Cunanan in the pages of VF, now offers her book-length version of the story. Vulgar Favors is not simply VF journalism at its worst, it is, without a doubt, the most patently of-fensive, poorly researched, and quintessentially homophobic book I have ever read.

Orth's work offends from the

opening page of the prologue, where she reports two telephone calls she received at home from an calls she received at home from an unidentified male, presumed by the author to be Andrew Cunanan himself. She reports, "My husband recognized the same gay male voice." And just how does one identify a "gay male voice." — may we presume a high-pitched whine, or is a simple lisp the requisite designator? Orth doesn't bother to provide descriptive details, just a ridiculous, undefined stereotype which she uses to draw her conclusion. This example defines the Orth modus operandi, but it is only the tip of a homophobic iceberg large enough to sink the RSVP cruise line.

Orth attributes the poor po-

Orth attributes the poor policework in the Cunanan manhunt to the cops' fear of a gay backlash from the newly-empowered gay community. The possibility that the murders of gay men simply took a lower priority in the simply took a lower priority in the notoriously homophobic law-enforcement community never oc-curs to Orth. But Orth lets the reader know she's really done her homework, pub-crawling through gay bars from San Diego to Miami. You haven't lived until you hear this middle-aged, mar-ried heterosexual woman from Washington DC describe the

FILM

leather community.
"Leather," we are told, "is a neutral word for sadoword for sado-masochistic sex." In San Diego, Orth in-San Diego, Orth informs us, no gay man is ever invited to an "A-list" party unless he uses crystal meth. And — my favorite Orth factoid — "Porn stars are the supermodels of the gay world."

Clueless

Throughout this dreadful opus, Orth comes across as a totally clueless voyeur who is not only incapable of

is not only incapable of understanding the milieu she is covering, but who remains completely unbalanced in her presentation of that milieu. She sees gay men as chickens and hawks; whores and pimps; addicts and pushers — all hell-bent on self-destruction to a disco beat. It is the worst kind of stereotyping because she fills in her broad generalizations with out-of-context quotes by people like Armistead Maupin, gay bartenders, and valuable surveys of the upstanding gay community like the "1998 Koch Crime Commission Report." She uses specific quotes to generalize uses specific quotes to generalize the gay community and substan-tiate her own homophobia. Then there is the little matter of technical research

cal research.

Orth alleges that Gianni Versace was HIV-positive at the time of his death, something his family denies. Why would any respectable journalist make this allegation, true or not? What bearing does it have on anything? In the sections of the book devoted to Cunanan's stint; in the Bay Area, Orth stops short of outing Harry deWildt, but dishes his poor wife Margot as a "big-boned Mellon heiress." (Margot is a Hill-

Mellon heiress." (Margot is a Hillman, not a Mellon.)
In her acknowledgments, she thanks the San Francisco bar owners who helped her at the "Alta Vista" and the "Lyons Pub" (has the coffee shop chain gone



gay, or did Phyllis Lyon open a queer bar?). I could go on, but why bother?

Maureen Orth's Vulgar Favors is perfectly designed to assist the religious right in its ongoing assault on gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans. Where Orth's sexual politics lie is not hard to fathom, but she seems to have had a great time slumming her way through the demimonde on an expense account. One can only hope that gay/lesbian book vendors will send this one right back to the publisher as soon as it arrives.







Low \$10 admission includes:

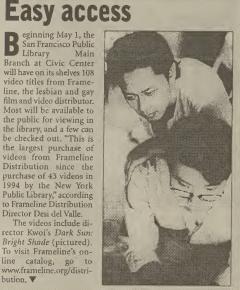
- THE ARENA!
- **ARCADE ALLEY!**
- THE SINEMA!
- **BLUE ROOM!**
- 5-MAN SHOWS!
- AFTER-HOUR SHOWS FRI/SAT

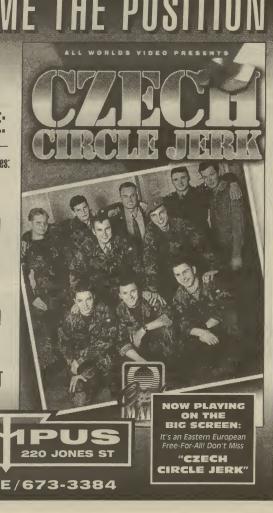
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The videos include director Kwoi's Dark Suntered: The Videos include director Kwoi's Dark Suntered: To visit Frameline's online catalog, go to www.frameline.org/distribution.











Life between deaths

by Michael Bronski

ebruary 9, 1999 was the fifth anniversary of the death of my lover of almost 20 years, Walta Borawski. He was 46 at the time of his death. I was 44. I am now 49. He is still dead. I will be 50 this May.

50 this May. February 25, 1999 was the first February 25, 1999 was the first anniversary of the death of my mother, Eleanor Bronski. She was 76 at the time of her death. I was 48. She was 28 when I was born. I will live another 28 years if I live as long as she did.

Three years ago I was constantly, and inexplicably, stilled by the mystery of death. How can it be so permanent? How can it exist so completely not only in its strik-ing, but in The Middle Ages

the absences it creates?
These days I am more often stilled These days I am more often stilled by the mystery of time. How old would Walta have been this year? How old am I? Does he stay 46 while I get older? How long will I live now that I am almost 50? In this age of AIDS uttering memento mori to gay men is simply redundant. Yet not a day passes when I do not wonder how long I have to live. How long I have to consciously shape my life and my world. During the past year I have come to acknowledge that death — and in particular these two deaths — has profoundly shaped how I now view my life, my work, my career.

my career.

My primary identification is that of a writer, a cultural critic and commentator. I have always and commentator. I have always written and for the past 25 years have made a living of it. It is how I make money, how I communicate, how I negotiate my everyday dealings with the world. But when Walta died in 1994, my relationship to my writing radically changed. My emotional life had been centered on Walta Out. been centered on Walta. Our nearly twenty years together were sustaining, complex, and exhila-rating; the intensity of nursing him to his death was alternately fatiguing and incredibly reward-ing. When he died, I was left not only with the always-expected (yet always inconceivable) emotional shock, but faced with confronting the mundane, practical

RELEASE

problem of what I was going to do next. Not only how I was going to spend my time, but how, and where, was I going to redirect the enormous emotional involvement I had in my relationship with

Walta.

At the age of 44 I attacked my career with a new sense of purpose and freedom. I edited an anthology of gay male sexual writing and one of contemporary essays of gay male politics and culture. I signed a contract to write a book

gned a contract to write a book

— The Pleasure Principle — on
the impact of gay culture on
mainstream culture and began
writing with an intensity I
had not conjured up for
years. Walta's death —
and his absence in the
material world — had allowed me to reimagine what I might do, attain with

my life, my writing, my career. It was

not as it being with Walta for those years had prevented me from doing any of this — although I wrote prodi-giously (and had published a book and had numerous essays in anthologies), much of my energy and focus was on my relationship with Walta. If anything, after his death, I realized that it was Walta's death, I realized that it was walta's unconditional love and support for those years that let me bloom in a new way now. It was with bittersweet realization that I finally acknowledged that the death of the man I love had — in some perfectly logical, yet perverse way — moved me not only into a new life, but a new stage of my career

as well.

I had a similar realization when my mother died in 1998. I had finished writing *The Pleasure Principle* and was making lastminute changes and correcting galleys. My parents knew what the book was about but, like much about my homosexuality and writing about gay issues, much went unspoken. Weeks after her death, after I saw the mock-up of the book's cover — a beautiful, death, after 1 saw the mock-up of the book's cover — a beautiful, but blatantly sexual photograph of a naked man hiding his genitals behind extended hands — I real-ized that I felt a great relief at her death. I would not have to see the pain and disappointment on her face when she saw the cover. I would not have to hear her attempting to hide, once again, her sense of shame and failure that I had turned out so much differently from how she and my father had imagined. I would not have to, once again, feel her disapproval that I had hurt her and my father no matter what I had achieved. While feeling grief at her death, I also felt an exhilarating sense of relief that I would no longer be judged and found wanting by the woman who brought me into the world — whose ability to love me was as conditional and hampered as Walta's was unlimited and free.

was as conditional and hampered as Walta's was unlimited and free. In her novel Rat Bohemia Sarah Schulman has a character comment that "paying for your lover's funeral is a gay man's bar mitzwah. It is how you know that you have become a man." While Walta's death — and all of my attendant medical, emotional, and moral responsibilities — ushered moral responsibilities — ushered me into a new stage in life, it was my mother's death that moved me finally into what felt like full adulthood. (In US culture, I think it is only the death of parents that allows us to become sufficiently adult, not children anymore. This adult, not children anymore. This may be particularly true for gay men and lesbians since so many of us choose not to raise children of our own.) Yet this passage — advanced as it was with two deaths — has also made me acutely aware, more perhaps than even AIDS, of my time as a living person, my own death, and life.

It is between these two deaths that I feel my life now exists. Both

It is between these two deaths that I feel my life now exists. Both freed me to grow and to mature as a thinker, a writer, a person. But both are also constant reminders that, at almost 50, my own time is limited, circumscribed. As my birth day expressed to I fout that. birthday approaches I find that I am not anxious about getting old — turning 40 was a revelation to me, I began to really feel like an adult — but am more and more adult — but am more and more aware of my responsibility to my-self to be productive, intimately involved with my writing and the world, aware of every waking moment and the choices I make: to be alive.

Michael Bronski is the author of The Pleasure Principle (St.

Martin's Press).

The Middle Ages column is curated by San Francisco novelist Robert Glück

FILM

Women's intuition



he Women's Foundation presents the World Premiere showing of *The Way Home*, Shakti Butler's new film about race, gender, and class issues. The documentary shows what happened when eight groups of women met in councils separated by ethnicity — African American, Arab, Asian, European American, indigenous, Jewish, Latina, and multiracial — over the course of eight months to discuss burning issues. The gala premiere, a benefit for World Trust, takes place on Saturday, April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 3301 Lyon St. Tickets are \$25-50. For information, call (510) 595-3322.

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Laboratory for the arts

Artists-in-residence program at Yerba Buena Center

by Aimée Ts'ao

eated on the floor in a circle in the corner of the studio, nine people listen as Manoranjan, an Odissi dancer from India, expresses himself in heavily accented English. Anne translates this into French for Djédjé, who is from Côte d'Ivoire, on one side of the circle, while Steve renders it into Chinese for Wen on the other side. Ralph Lemon, poised on his haunches, takes in the swirl of the multilingual, intercultural communication with serene intensity. He is midway through a three-week residency at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, where he is developing work for the second part of his trilogy, Geography: Race/Spiritual-ity/Home. From 1985 to 1995, he headed his own dance company, choreographing in his own postmodern style. Then he abruptly changed directions and began a seven-year odyssey, an enormous exploration to find and distill material and experiences into the Geography Trilogy.

After watching the videotape of the afternoon's movement experimentation, Manoranjan is ex-

After watching the videotape of the afternoon's movement explaining that he feels uncomfortable. Odissi, originally a sacred dance form performed in temples, doesn't lend itself to improvisation and cross-fertilization, and he is not happy with the day's work. Though the rest of the group have been and will continue working together for another ten days, he is only a one-time guest. Later in an interview, Lemon explains that Asako Takami, an Odissi dancer herself, thought Manoranjan would be a great addition to the workshop, and though he was on tour in Southern California, he flew up for the day. While Takami does not share Manoranjan's feelings, it is because she is not Indian, and therefore does not have the cultural involvement that he does. Lemon is continually amazed at what he is learning about working with people from other cultures, that he cannot make assumptions about how anyone else views his current process of creation, that he must leave himself open to constant adapting and changing to suit the needs of the individuals in the group, including himself.

in the group, including himself.

The following week in the Yerba Buena Forum, Lemon gives an informal presentation of the material his multicultural group has been working on. He said, "This project is turning out to be more anthropology than choreography. In the first part, Race, I worked with eight men from Côte d'Ivoire, and ended up discovering that they were more concerned with spirituality. Race wasn't an issue for them. This second part, Spirituality, brings together people from the countries where Buddhism began and developed, India, China and Japan. And they are more concerned with their art forms and being artists than with spirituality." Given these discoveries, you'd have to say that the workshop is a success, because learning and exploration, and not producing a finished performance piece, are the primary goals.

Full support

The Artist-In-Residence Program at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is the brainchild of John



John Killacky

Killacky, Yerba Buena's Executive Director. It is not beside the point that Killacky has been a dancer and dance company manager himself, and has fought his own personal battle against paralysis resulting from the surgical removal of a benign spinal tumor. He knows first-hand how vital the proper support and nurturing are to the development and growth of endeavors, artistic and otherwise.

In an interview last month, Killacky said, "The Center is about allowing artists to make

In an interview last month, Killacky said, "The Center is about allowing artists to make new work. It's different from a museum, which is about showing the best work. Yerba Buena doesn't have a permanent collection or resident performing companies. We have no 'institutional ego' to break down. The question is, how do we best serve the community? During the twenty years of planning and building the Center, a lot of promises were made, and now it's time to give back to the artists' community."

community."
Starting out with a simple "land grant" approach, Killacky opened up the rehearsal studio to artists who don't have facilities where they can create. Then, through grants from Phyllis Wattis and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Center was able to formalize the program. Besides Ralph Lemon, other choreographer artists-in-residence include: Margaret Jenkins, who has been rehearsing for over a year on her latest full-length work to be shown in the fall; Robert Moses, who worked with Sara Shelton Mann on a section of a piece that premiered a few weeks ago at Theater Artaud; and Stephen Petronio, from New York, who has also been using the space as part of a four-year residency in partnership with San Francisco Performances.

formances.

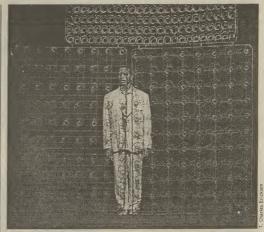
Before coming to San Francisco, Killacky was the Performing Arts Curator at the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis, where "we did a lot of commissioning of work, and frankly, not every piece worked. In the arts world we have to justify research and development in an odd way. The corporate world understands it. Things like nylon, penicillin and post-its were discovered by accident, not because someone was deliberately trying to invent them. That is why a laboratory is so important, it's a place where things are discovered. I just gave a talk in Los Angeles on venture capital models for the arts. Basically, one third off the money you invest will tank, one third will return nothing, and the last third will return big. You are not remembered for the things that didn't work out, only what was successful. If the arts world

could function under that paradigm, it would be a lot healthier. And artists would be given a lot more freedom. Let's put the onus not on the final product, but on allowing the artist to have the process in a timely way."

Working together

The idea of partnerships is also central to Killacky's way of thinking about artistic development. "I love the symbiotic nature of it all. The Center does not exist without partners. It is important that we all work together, Theater Artaud and Brady Street in dance, but we also do theatre and music, because it's not a good time for artists, and we need to help where we can by providing space and resources. I'm also meeting with San Francisco Ballet and Oakland Ballet because I'm eager to see if there's a way we can work with them. I think the Center should be a home for lots of different forms, from classical to avantgarde, from conceptual to traditional."

The Duke Foundation Grant application was a collaborative effort between Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and San Francisco Performances. "The Foundation found it odd that two organizations would apply together. We do separate things, but they are complementary; we are interested in a residency program for the development of work, and San Francisco Performances wants to develop

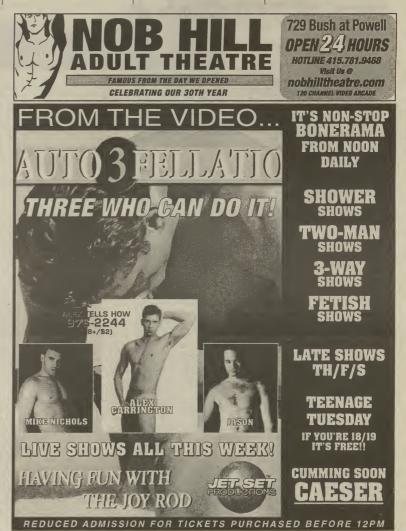


Ralph Lemon in Geography

the presentation side of the work in their residencies. It's really compatible, and we now share staff as well."

During the two-and-a-half years that Killacky has been at Yerba Buena, he has succeeded in making it renowned for the quality and breadth of its dance programming, as well as its offerings in music and theater. In one of the more ambitious residencies, the Paul Taylor Dance Company is currently installed at Yerba Buena for an entire month (March 20

through April 18) rehearsing, performing, screening archival films, and running a three-day conference on the Dancemaking of Paul Taylor. Upcoming residency events include Axis Dance Company, on Site Dance Company, and Joe Goode Performance Group. As Killacky put it, "We are hired for what we know, but our work is what we don't know. Our job is to research and find new artists." And your job, dear audience, is to go and see what he has found.



)UT&ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Winning dances

A sone of America's most renown Asian American choreographers, Enrico Labayen, founder of Labayen Dance/SF, has made a name for himself not only here in San Francisco, where he bases his company, but across the continent and around the globe. He's also won a slew of awards for his work.

Soon Labayan will be making his mark on the Middle East as he and his dancers perform their prize-winning

mark on the Middle Last as he and his dancers perform their prize-winning pieces in Jordan at the Amman International Theater Festival, and also in concert in New York City.

Fortunately, those of us interested in Labayan's finest pieces need not travel across the continent or the Atlantic Ocean to see them. He'll be giving San Franciscans a sneak preview.

lantic Ocean to see them. He'll be giving San Franciscans a sneak preview of his grand show on April 12 and 13 at Brady Street Dance Theater.

Cellist Marika Hughes will play the Bach Cello Suite #1 for Labayan's newest dance, choreographed specifically for the Jordan performance and dedicated to the memory and honor of Jordan's King Hussein.

Also on the bill are two dances that received Isadora Duncan Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Chore-

Outstanding Achievement in Chore-

Outstanding Achievement in Chore-ography.
"Cloth" is a duet inspired by the Bible's "Song of Songs," with its sen-sual and evocative imagery. The dance was originally commissioned by Jhan Otto Theater in Potsdam, Germany, for the International Dance Germany, for the International Dance with Objects Festival. And "Puirt a Beul" combines the company's full spectrum of dance styles and techniques, showcasing the dancers' physical daring, vitality, ecclecticism and versatility. The name refers to a style of Gaelic "mouth music" intended for dancing.

dancing.

A fourth dance piece, "Damas," which took top prize at an international festival in Tokyo, Japan, is inspired by an Asian matriarchal ritual that explores female strength and power. It's set to music by Arvo Part and Henryk Gorecki.

Labayen migrated from Southeast Asia to America in 1973, and trained

Labayen migrated from Southeast Asia to America in 1973, and trained with the finest ballet schools in New York, San Francisco and Europe. After 15 years in the country, feeling the schizophrenia of simultaneously being and not being American, he returned to Southeast Asia to re-experience and define his cultural identification. The heightered knowledge from rience and define his cultural identity. The heightened knowledge from his experience spurred him to create dances that incorporate Asian cultural themes, including rituals and practices of Asiatic indigenous tribes. Labayan says his choreography integrates ballet technique, American modern dance and Asian ritual gestures "to create a potent, strangely beautiful hybrid language of image, experience and passion."

Award-winning works by Enrico Labayan will be featured April 12-13, 8pm, at Brady Street Dance Theater, 60 Brady St. in San Francisco. Tickets are \$10-\$25 (sliding scale). For reservations, phone 241-3770 or 241-2484.



Eri

Jon Sims Center

Jon Sims Center
AlRspace artist-in-residence
José Navarrete presents
"Valentino," a dance/theater
work in progress, based on
the creation and destruction
of silent-film star and cultural
icon Rudolph Valentino.
Navarrete chooses Tango as
his dance idiom, both the
original Argentine form and
the Hollywood hybrid, \$5-\$10
suggested donation. 8:30pm.
Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission
St. (at 11th St.). 554-0402.

Sha'ar Zahav

Dinner & discussion: Lev Raphael, author of Death of a Constant Lover, the third novel in his Nick Hoffman se-ries, delivers remarks he has entitled "From Mysterious" Jews to Jewish Mysteries." Jews to Jewish Mysteries." Vegeterian dinner served at 6:30pm. \$20 w/dinner (\$15 for members of MCC or Sha'ar Zhahay). Speaking event only: \$7 (\$5 members). Congregation Sha'ar Zahay, 290 Dolores St. (at 16th). 861-6932.

SF Buddhist Center

SF Buddhist Center
The Beauty School dance
troupe presents two new
works. Kriya, constructed by
Erika Shuch, involves a
writer whose invented characters have assumed physical
form. I See London, I See
France, choreographed by
Jessica Fudim, in which a
quartet of performers revealing the inadvertent effects
people have upon each other. people have upon each other. Also: a performance by the

all-women Bulgarian choir Handmaiden America. \$10. 8pm. Fri. & Sat. thru 4/17. 37 Bartlett St. (btwn. Mission & Valencia @ 21st St.). 558-8118.

Venue 9

Venue 9
Footloose presents "Real Virtuality," theater with a holographic dimension. Writer/director Peter Freund intersperses live music with onscreen actors and video environments. The musical experimenters, all improvisationists, are Matthew Ingalls on clarinet, John Shiurba on guitar, and Karen Stackpole on percussion. A videotaped conductor, Geoffrey Gallegos, guides the trio. \$10.\$\frac{1}{2}\$ Siding. \$9m. \text{Fri-Sun. thru 4/25.}\$ 252 Niinth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). 289-2000.

Brady Street Theater

The Dead Horse Ensemble presents "EléctrOphelia," a fusion of Hamlet and Electra, with blues lyrics, newspaper advice columns, and vocals by Melville, Stein, and Joyce. Featuring Gillian Chadsey, Susannah Martin, and Patrick McCracken. Written and directed by Fliz. and ratrick McCracken. Written and directed by Elizabeth Spreen. \$12. 8pm. Thru 4/17. 60 Brady St. (btwn. Market & Gough). 558-9355.

Theatre Rhinoceros

Theatre Khinoceros
Ryan Idol stars in Ronnie
Larsen's 10 Naked Men, exploring a Hollywood in which
money and power are everything (and a big dick helps).
\$20-\$25. 8pm. (5pm & 8pm on Sat.; 3pm & 7pm on Sun.).
Thru 4/11. 2726 16th St.
(btwn. Mission & S. Van
Ness). 861-5079.

Josie's

Josie's
Tom Orr performs his oneman show, "Sweet Parody!"
With comic retakes on classic
Broadway showtunes. With
Birdie-Bob Watt on piano.
\$12. (\$10 senior\$students).
8pm & 10pm. Thu. (8pm)
Fri., & Sat. (8pm & 10pm)
Fri. & Sat. (8pm & 10pm)
Thru 4/17. Josie's Cabaret &
Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. (at
Market & Noe). 861-7933.

Piaf's

Piaf's
Jazz vocalist Pam Munter
pays tribute to 01' Blue Eyes
in "A Torch You Can't Lose . . .
My Life as Frank Sinatra."
\$20. 9pm. Tue.-Sun. thru
4/17 (showtimes vary). Dinner/show packages available.
Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret,
1686 Market St. (at Gough).
864-3700. 864-3700.

Bucheon Gallery

Opening reception: "Concu-piscence," a solo exhibition by Chicago painter Phyllis Bramson, who sees her work as eccentric, contrary, often as eccentric, contrary, otten hovering between nonsensical and profoundly meaningful. Her diverse paintings are at times intentionally kitschy. Free. 6-9pm. 540 Hayes St. 863-2891.

ODC Theater
Ban Rra, the Cuban folklore group, performs energetic,
colorful, celebratory dances.
The company performs several
different styles, including
Tajona, Gaga, Tumba Francesa and Conga Santiaguera.
\$15. 8pm. 3153 17th St. (at
Shotwell). 863-9834.

Community Music Center

Concert and conversation with soprano Dawn Upshaw,

renowned for her portrayals of the great Mozart roles in the opera houses of New York, Paris, Salzburg and Vienna. Presented by San Francisco Performances. Free. 5:30-6:30pm. 544 Capp St. (btwn. 20th & 21st). 647-6015.

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

Reunion concert featuring the women's jazz ensemble Alive! The group marked the 1970s and '80s with exuberant and inspired original compositions. They helped blaze a math forward in jazz \$20. path for women in jazz. \$20 advance; \$23 door. 7:30pm. Also on 4/10. 1650 Mountai Blvd., 0akland. (510) 339-1832.

New College Theater

New College Theater
"Vegetable Kingdom," a play
by Kevin Killian and Rex Ray.
Two producers of a sagging
TV game show decide to
switch to a celebrity format.
Things get dicey when they pit.
Linda McCartney against
Yoko Ono. With Norma Cole,
Kota Esau, Phoebe Gloeckner, Cliff Hengst, Scott
Hewicker, Killian, Karla
Milosevich, Ray, Larry
Rinder, Jocelyn Saidenberg
and Wayne Smith. \$5-\$10
sliding. 7:30pm. 777 Valensliding. 7:30pm. 777 Valencia St. 437-3454.

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents The Target Shoots First, Chris Wilcha's hidden-camera diary of his stint with the Columbia Record House mail-order machine — a clueless corporate hell-tower that tapped the expenses of the property of the control of the cont hell-tower that tapped the ex-punk's sub-cult savy in order to market grunge rock. Plus Todd Haynes' Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story, told with Barbie Dolls. Also as-sorted musical shorts. \$5. 8:30pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

Crucible Steel Gallery

Crucible Steel Gallery
"Via," an arts festival showcasing the creative talents of
people with disabilities. Featuring 23 acts, including
dance, theater, puppets,
video, slides, spoken word, a
cappella, bands and more.
With special guests Charming
Hostess and Axis Dance Company performing alongside
new and emerging artists
(more than half of whom have
disabilities). A benefit for Integrated Arts, a nonprofit ordisabilities). A benefit for integrated Arts, a nonprofit or-ganization. \$15-\$30 sliding. 8pm-2am (doors open 7:30pm). 2050 Bryant St. (btwn. 18th & 19th). Tix: (510) 841-1466.

Chinese Culture Center

Culture Center
Magicians with a Message
present "Khan Ju Ling: A
Magical Journey of Illusion
and Dance." A dream trilogy
depicting the magical odyssey
of a 19th century descendant
of the great Mongolian ruler
Kublai Khan who is lured to
California by the Gold Rush.
Dazzling costumes, sets, and
special effects. \$18 (\$15 seniors; \$6 students under 18).
2pm & 5pm. 750 Kearny St.
986-1822.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Theatre Center
West Coast premiere: The
Nanjing Race, a cross-cultural drama by Reggie CheongLeen, directed by Arturo
Catricala. It's about a gay
Japanese American in Asia
for the first time on business.
At his hotel, he meets two
valets. Hidden agendas and
passion clash in this play
about sexual preference, race, about sexual preference, race, and blind ambition. \$20. 8pm. Thru 5/8. 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Harvey Milk Institute Harvey Milk Institute
One-day classes: "Sex, Gender, and the Other in Ancient
Greece" with Elisabetta VilJari. \$25. 1-49m. "Buying
Stocks Without a Broker"
with Nancy Gee. \$35.
10:30am-1:30pm. Classes
held at Harvey Milk Civil
Rights Academy @ 19th
Collingwood. Info/enrollment:
552-7200.

un

A Different Light

Rik Isensee reads from and discusses his latest book, Are You Ready? The Gay Man's Guide to Thriving at Midlife. Isensee counters stereotypes about growing older. Free. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

PELAG/

St. Francis Church St. Francis Church
Special guest: Derrick TynanConnolly, an openly gay
teacher in the SF Unified
School District who works
with LGBT youth in the
Homeless Education Program. He discusses their challenges and needs. Free. Support group meets 2-3-pm (all
welcome); Tynan-Connolly
speaks 3-4pm. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians
and Gays, St. Francis Church,
152 Church St. (at Market).
921-8850. 921-8850.

Community Music Center

Music Center
The Sequoia Trio (Dara Saffer, Tong Cheng, and Elizabeth Vandervennet) performs
the world premiere of work by
San Francisco composer June
Bonacach. Free. 4pm. 544
Capp St. (btwn. 20th & 21st).
647-6015.

Noe Valley Ministry

Noe Valley Nimistry
Noe Valley Chamber Music
presents the Bay Area ensem
ble HelioTrope, featuring soprano Joyce Todd, mezzo-soprano Etty Ben-Zaken, Amy
Brodo on viola da gamba,
and Natalie Cox on harps.
They'll warfarm medieval and They'll perform medieval and new music. \$10 (\$5 stu-dents/seniors). 4pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9444.

DJ's, Walnut Creek

"The Sunday Funnies," queer comedy and improv featuring comedy and improv featuring Los Angeles comedian Jill Turnbow. Presented by Sphere Entertainment & Mark Maguire. Proceeds from cover & raffle benefit the Rainbow Community Center. \$5 cover. 8pm. DJ's Bar and Dance Club, 1535 Olympic Blvd., Downtown Walnut Creek. (925) 930-0300.

Ashkenaz, Berkeley

Hip hop benefit concert to help launch the April 24th Millions for Mumia March. Featuring Prophets of Rage, Black Dot Com Collective, Black Dot Com Collective, 144,000, and youth spoken-word artist Biko. Mumia Abu-Jamal is the African Ameri-can journalist who many be-lieve was framed for the murder of a police officer. \$10. 7:30pm. All ages. 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Info: (415) 821-6545.

The Coco Club

The Coco Club
The Sunday Social presents
The Hairdressers (kind of like
Velvet Goldmine meets English folk music). DJs play dub
& northern soul. Bingo &
cheap drinks. \$5 cover. Doors
open 4:30pm. Show at
6:30pm. Dancing all evening
with Tufftone Soundsystem.
139 8th St.

Harvey Milk Institute

Classes begin: "Introduction to AikIdo" with Marc Cohen. \$65. Three Sundays (thru. 4/25). 3:30-5pm. Also: "Ortids for Everyone" with Brian Metzler & Mitcho. \$20. One day only. 1-4pm.



Info./enrollment: 552-7200

Jon

Open Mic Comedy Night with comic host Marilyn Pittman. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. (at Market & Noe). No reserva-tions required.

Yerba Buena Center

The SF Contemporary Music Players perform a tribute to contemporary women com-posers Sofia Gubaidulina, Thea Musgrave, Ursula Mam-lok, Julia Wolfe, Sheree Clement. Featuring cellist Stephen Harrison. 8pm. Forum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St Tix: 978-ARTS.

Ne

A Different Light

Michael Jensen reads from Frontiers, a novel of historical fiction with a gay twist, set in the old American frontier. Free. 7:30pm.

Amron Metaphysical Center

Video showing: "Rumi —
Poet of the Heart," presented
by Rev. Velia Kroupa. A celebration of the earthy, joyous,
spiritual passion of the mystic
Sulf poet. Featuring Coleman
Barks, the preeminent contemporary translator of

East meets West in The Nanjing Race a New Conservatory Theatre Center. See Saturday.

Rumi's poetry. Joining in are poets and writers Robert Bly, Deepak Chopra, Michael Meade and others. Free. 7pm. 2254 Van Ness Ave.

Harvey Milk Institute

Classes begin:
"Butch/Femme: A Dialogue"
with Bari Mandelbaum, \$30.
Three Tuesdays (thru 4/27),
7:30-9pm. "Spanish for the
Queer Traveler" with Rosalinda del Moral, \$100. Five
Tuesdays (thru 5/11), 7-9pm.
Info./enrollment: 552-7200.

Ned

A Different Light

A Different Light
Rick Foster and Greg Hicks
read from their true life adventure, How We Choose to
be Happy. The couple set out
to determine what it means to
be truly happy. Their research
took them across two continents where they found truly happy people. Free. 7:30pm.

Z Space Studio

Stephen Pelton Dance Theater performs "Animal Acts," in performs "Animal Acts," in which beastly instinct and human frailty meet. Join Pelton as he enters the center ring of this eerie, forgotten circus. Choreagraphed and performed by Shelton. Directed by Tracy Ward. Original music by Robert Maggio and Christopher Winslow. \$12-\$15 (\$2 discount for students/seniors). Wed.-Sun. thru May 2. 8 pm (7pm Sun.). 1360 Mission St. (btwn. 9th & 10th). 437-6775.

Venue 9

Venue 9
Footloose presents "Meet the Beat," hosted by Carolyn King. Boundary-breaking performances by up-and-coming multimediasts. Featuring Karen Penuelos and musical guest Micah Ball (of Amy X Neuburg & Men) on Chapman Stick, with violinist, dancer, vocalist S.K. Thoth performing excerpts from his solo, vocalist S.K. Thoth performing excepts from his solo, mystical opera, *The Herma*. Also: Arundo, a gumbo of spoken word, guitar, chants, tabla, and blues. \$6-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 252 9th St. (btwn. Folsom & Howard). 289-2000.

Theater Artaud

"New Tsunami Fusion Fest '99," a two-week performing arts festival celebrating Pan-Asian theater and dance. 450 Florida St. Tix./info: 621-7797.

Yerba Buena Center

Yerba Buena Center
Film Arts Foundation (FAF)
presents a screening of Stories of the Yuba, a new documentary film by Gregg
Schiffner. It traces the epic
struggle by conservationists to
keep the South Yuba River
the Sierra Nevada wild and
free-flowing. \$7 (\$6 for FAF
members). 8pm. Screening
Room, Yerba Buena Center
for the Arts, 701 Mission St.
Tix: 978-ARTS. Info: 552-Tix: 978-ARTS. Info: 552-

Harvey Milk Institute

Free class: "Hate Crime ABCs: Queers Bash Back" with the staff of Community United Against Violence. 7-9pm. Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th

St. (at Collingwood). Info: 552-7200.

A Different Light

"The Dark Shade of Our De-sire: Queer People of Color/Mixed Blood Reading." Featuring Rinat Abastado, Shalija Patel, Madhuri Anji, Carlos González, and Miss Major. Free. 7:30pm.

Studio @ Rhino

"A Thin Place in the Universe," a new play written and directed by Jeff Schwamberger, featuring Jason Arquin, Caroline Ford, Allyson Kulavis, Al Perez, Mark VanDerBeets, and Sam Yelland. A First Seen production. \$15 & \$18. Thurs. & Fri. at 8:30pm; Sat. at 5pm Fri. at 8:30pm; Sat. at 5pm & 8:30pm. Thru May 1. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. (at S. Van Ness). 861-5079.

The Beauty Bar

The Beauty Bar New club: "Facelife," hosted by Rhoda Dendron and Lycra Sheen. Performances by Rhoda, Lycra, and special guests Faye Lasheo and Wenda Watch. Sounds by DJ Vikki. Drink specials. It hap-pens every third Thurs. \$5 cover. Located at 19th St. and Mission streets. 9pm-closing. Info: 602-8865

for the Arts

Fifth Floor presents "Pierre," a work in progress, written and adapted by Ed Gaible from the writings of philosopher Michel Foucault. Directed by Kenn Watt. The play examines the complex relaed by Kenn Watt. Ine play examines the complex rela-tionship between Pierre Riv-iere, who staughtered his fam-ily, and Foucault, for whom the case became a fascina-tion. \$6-\$12 sliding. 8pm. Thru 4/18. 446 Valencia St. 6/2-3311

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Out & About Bay Area Reporter 395 Ninth Street San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

This Week's Dinner Specials

Fresh Salmon Fillet grilled or poached with white wine-lemon-dill sauce, vegetable and mashed potatoes or chef's rice\$11.75

Grilled N.Y. Pepper Steak encrusted

Chicken Stroganoff over fettucini with mushrooms, marsala wine & sour cream ...\$9.75

Grilled Pork Chops with apple-combread dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy...\$10.50

Fried Calamari with dipping sauce...\$5.75

Patio Cafe

531 Castro Street, between 18th/19th Breakfast/Lunch served from 9:00 AM Dinner Served from 5:00 PM



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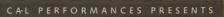
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by Robert Wilson & Philip Glass

TUE-SAT, APR 13-17, 8 PM ZELLERBACH HALL \$22, 532, 542
Together again for the first time since Einstein on the Beach, Robert Wilson and Philip Class have created a multimedia event for the new millennium using state-of-the-art, 3D animation rendered in 70mm film. Sung in English, the libretto features ecstatic love songs based on the spiritual poetry of Sufi mystic Rumi, performed live by Philip Class and the Philip Class Ensemble with guest vocalists.

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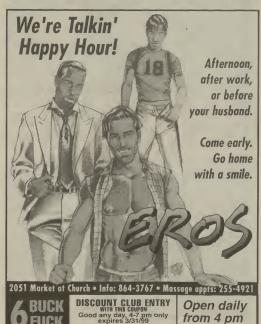
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ute-Grotica 4077A 18th St. ~2nd level~ Open Daily 861~5787 Lubricants~Condoms~Erotica www.mercuymslorder.com ~Home of The Dildo Mines~









Leather tribes hunt fresh blood

by Mister Marcus

o you think being into leather is only about getting laid and winning a title? Or maybe you think it's only about bondage and discipline, kinky sex,

bondage and discipline, kinky sex, dungeon parties, orgies and being a good top or a good bottom?

Well, then, think again. What about the men and women who put themselves on the front lines, raising money for the less fortunate, or for causes that will benefit not only leather people, but the whole LGBT community?

What about those people who

What about those people who toil behind the scenes to insure a benefit works; who get the word out about demonstrations and picketing and meetings and fund

picketing and meetings and fund raising events?

Sure, leather contests and title-holding is part of leather culture, but not all of it. The fact that we have fun (the key word) while doing contests and being activists is what makes leather life worth-while. Bonding becomes more meaningful; the feeling of broth-erhood and sisterhood is enhanced; and being accepted for who and what we are is all part of the bargain.

who and what we are is all part of the bargain.

I bring these ideas to your at-tention for a reason: Next week-end, leather men and women not only from San Francisco, but from only from San Francisco, but from all over the country will converge here to share ideas, expertise, in-spire wavering souls, and hopeful-ly give impetus to those of you who may be wondering about your lifestyle choice.

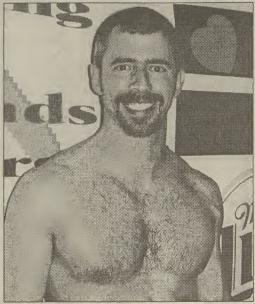
your lifestyle choice.
Yes, I'm referring to the third annual Leather Leadership Conference, for the first time being held outside the confines of New York City.
While he would be the last one to take credit for it, John Weis, the current chairman of GMSMA in New York, is the man who managed to inspire others to gather and share ideas, tap into

gather and share ideas, tap into various expertise, and utilize all the great talent out there to make our community stronger. As a result, we've become more successful in many worthwhile efforts, and have significantly enhanced the once-tarnished image of the Leather Nation

At the conference, a legion of people who know the ins and outs



Former Chicagoan Faye Foltz won the Ms. Los Angeles Leather Contest in early March, and will compete for the IMsL '99 title in Las Vegas in July.



Dean Prager won the Mr. August 2000 spot on the Millennium Bare Chest Calendar last Thursday, April 1. Mr. September will be chosen next Thursday, April 15.

of fundraising, consciousness raising, and other facets of our tribal rites will conduct work-shops and demonstrations. Hope-fully they'll attract people who are wavering or unsure of what direc-tion they want to take as gay

persons The fact is, some of the holy

The fact is, some of the holy cows in the leather community are getting burned out. They've been carrying the load for years. We need new blood, new ideas, and new strategies.

While we know the talent is out there, signing up recruits is no easy task. If you're a leather man or woman who has been holding back, here's a chance to explore what the leather communications.

explore what the leather community is all about. You really owe it

nity is all about. You really owe it to yourself to explore the possibilities of doing something meaningful and accomplishing a goal or two. Trust me, it'll make you feel good about yourself.

The majority of the conference activity will take place at the Golden Gate Holiday Inn (Van Ness Ave. at Pine), with related parties and dances at other locations. Registration for event will take place Friday, April 16 from 1800 to 2200 hours, but don't wait till the last minute because at 2000, Guy Baldwin will give the welcome and keynote address.

The schedule of events is as follows:

follows:
Saturday, April 17, from 0900 to 1030: workshops centering on media expertise, organizing, and kinky families.
Between 1100 and 1230: panels on volunteers, people of color, presentations, leather, SM & the radical right, and community bonding — all just before the lunch break!
From 1400 to 1730: more in-

From1400 to 1730: more information on reaching out to the next generation, leadership skills, leather on the Internet, and model community work. You can glean worthwhile information on interactions with deaf leather people,

laws about leather activity, leather events, and educating sash queens on S/M and community outreach.

On Sunday morning, April 18, there will more workshops on the leather credo, SM vs. Abuse, and

leather credo, SM vs. Abuse, and POC issues.
Following the 1130 to 1300 brunches, there will be a lecture on leather/SM history.
From 1430 to 1530, the plenary session takes place.
For more detailed information on the conference, write to LLC-III, PO Box 420905, SF94142; email to: info-llc@leatherweb. com, or call (415) 289-7982. More details can be had on the Web by details can be had on the Web by clicking on www.leatherweb.com/

IML update

If you're planning to attend International Mr. Leather in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend, the host hotel Congress is sold out but there are still rooms at other nearby. If you're online, click on www.imrl.com, then click on "hotels" for availability. At my deadline, rooms are still available at Essex Inn (800) 621-6909; Midland Hotel (800) 621-2360; the Hyatt on Printers Row (800) 233-1234; and Holiday Inn & Suites (312) 957-9100. Don't be left out! There were celebrations

1234, and Holiday Inn & Suites (312) 957-9100. Don't be left out!

There were celebrations around ye olde campus last week too. On Thursday, 7 men bared their personalities and chests in an effort to win the Mr. August 2000 slot on the Millennium Bare Chest Calendar. With judges Patrick Batt, Graylin Thornton, Mike Wolford and Mike Wieland shooting the questions, it turned out that a bona fide top, Dean Prager, won the spot with Kip O'Neal the runner-up. Mr. September 2000 will be chosen next Thursday, April 15.

On Saturday, Daddy Philip Turner and Greg Pennington celebrated their 10th year together with a doozy of a party at Daddy's with people shuttling back and forth between that one and the Knights of Malta 7th anniversary

Knights of Malta 7th anniversary

next page

Palm pilot

by Sweet Lips

oing to that capital of ga-ga fun in the desert, Palm Springs? If you are, Sweet Lips has a show for you! The all-new Michael Greer show runs April 8 through 14 at the ever-popular Rock Garden Club. Don't miss Michael's new act "Mona Lewinski!" Of course, it was a lot newer an act on the cover of the New Yorker last month, but better late than never. For reservations to Michael/Mona, call (760) 327-

Michael/Mona, call (760) 327-8840.

But what if you're stuck in town this week, like the rest of us? Here's a rundown of happenin's and hoedowns in Lips' little corner of the world.

The Giraffe video and chandelier lounge will be featuring a special dinner each Wednesday night starting at 7 p.m. and catered, of course, by Dennis ("Truffles 'n' trouble") Tyler. That's on lovely lower Polkstrasse, of course.

The sexy ("eat him up!") John David is on the plank Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kimo's, great for that early morning wake-up-call, and he gets a very interesting crowd — hi, Jimmy!

Job Interview

Job Interview
Dept.: Michael
Sparks, all 6 ft. 4 in. of him, wants to be a barback at the 1100 Club, and what the 1100 Club, and what a hunk he is.
What do you say, boys, do we give him an opportunity to flex all that muscle? **Cocktail Hour**



Michael Greer as Mona Lewinski in Palm Springs.

Thank you, Ronnie Lynn of Tango
Tango on California
St. for the huge blownup Lips that look as big
as a raft. And yes, La Lips
is back from her P.V. vacation, tanned,

toned maybe toned) and back at work 6 a.m. to Noon at the 1100 Club.

The New Gold Room has a great new look and is doing great business. As I "write" this, Frank of the New Gold is making hun-dreds of Easter baskets for chil-

dreds of Easter baskets for children in hospital. Now there's a solid milk chocolate heart.

Surprise — the 1100 Club with Yours Truly on the plank will be having a special Thurs.-Sun., 9-11 a.m. All well drinks and domestic beer for only \$2.

Try to beat that around town! ▼



J/O Cinema & Exhibitionist Garage

Garage open every night 8pm-12M except Mon and Thu.

Adjoining video theater features 3 continuous porno screens showing both recent-release and

Theater open every day 10am-12M.

Unlike many clubs nearby, the Circle J is safe, clean, friendly and relaxed. Not a cruise-bar disguised as a sex club, we're designed for guys who like to show off and watch others show off.

Must check street ciothes Tue & Fri (underwear OK); Clothes check also available other nights. Adm. \$8 F 415-474-6995 Metro: Powell es check also avallar 415-474-6995



José Cebollero is Mr. Philadelphia

Mister Marcus

previous page

at the Eagle. Congratulations are in order all around and I'm sure a good time was had by all.

Parade update

The alphabet-soup parade is nearly upon us. You may recall, the leather community's dissatisfaction with the Pride Parade committee came to a head last year with a face-to-face confrontation that ended amiably. It settled with the leather-pride confinent extingent extingent extingent extingent extingents. tingent getting their preferred spot in the parade line-up.

In order to avoid another con-

frontation this year, the leather community is invited to meet with the parade committee at 1500 on Saturday, April 10 at the Eagle. There, a public forum will be held, hosted by parade chair Calvin Gipson, Treasurer Stephan Edwards and parade executive di-rector Teddy Witherington. A survey will be taken to gath-

er information on how best to effect communication with us. They want to hear from you, so put on your thinking cap now to come up with suggestions for im-provement. Be there if you have any input, or don't bitch about it

any imput, or don't otten about it later.

Also, on Sunday, April 18, there will be a \$7 beer bust, raffle and auction at Daddy's, from 1600 to 1900, to raise money for entry fees and other expenses for the leather contingent in the parada. Support both leffogts, It's rade. Support both efforts. It's your parade, after all.



Leather 1999 as of March 5. He'll be among the contenders for the IML '99 title in Chicago in May.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, April 9-11

First annual Ms. NY Leather contest, with a meet & greet at the Clit Club on Friday; contest at the Exchange Club on Saturday. Also Mr. Empire State Leather in Albany, NY by the Stars MC In Dallas, the Mr. Texas Leather Contest at the

Dallas Eagle.

Saturday, April 10

The Golden Dildeaux Awards will be presented at the Eagle tonight. If you were nominated, be there. Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet will emcee with at least two presenters for each category. Beerbust

& fun.
Cal Eagles MC ride to Petaluma to tour the Cheese Factory leaves from Daddy's at 0930. Call 267-0560 for details.

Leathernecks Play Party; doors open 2100-

2230. \$12 cover to benefit the AEF. Call 437-0883 or click on the_ring@ix.netcom.com. Pride Parade Committee meets with the leather

community, 1500 at The Eagle. Discuss developments, parade placing, needs, desires.

Men of Discipline-SF uniform night at the Loading Dock, anytime after 2100. Come out and meet SFs newest group.
SM Prom in Santa Clara, 2000-0100. "A Journey Into BDSM." Call (925) 934-9444 or click on:

www.sm0dyssey.com

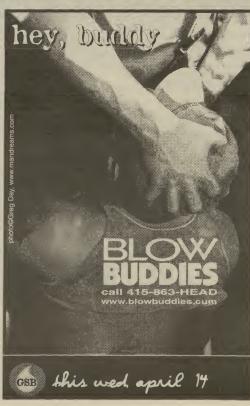
Masters and slaves Together gathering, starting 1930 at Lone Star.Topic: Dom/Sub Relationships: How to Keep Them Working.

Wednesday, April 14

Wet Wednesday at 933 Harrison. You know the rules. Rain gear frowned upon. Call 863-HEAD. Also SF Leathernecks bondage night. Subject: Wrapping Techniques. Call 437-0883 for details and location.

Thursday, April 15

Mr. September 2000 bare chest calendar contest at the Powerhouse, with judges Dan Guida, Sam Medrano and Mr. Dec. '99 Marvin.





Only 98¢ per minute to respond to ads!

Available only on touch-tone phones in the Bay Area. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

PARTING **GLANCES**

Dan!!! Call Clayton
I've misplaced your phone number.
Shall we dine at Oberon again? Remember Chicago, The Mark, Phantom. 12 6800

Searching For The Nile To Swim Met you at Tsunami, gave you a ride home, thought you were cool. Like to see you again. I owe you three dollars! Want to payback. 12 6803

10 Naked Men
Sat. March 27, intermission. Me: tall
with glasses by recycle bins. You:
shorter, dark hair and beautiful eyes,
white tee. We smiled and said hi,
both seemed too shy about talking.
Give a call, would like to meet you.

27 7001.

Leaving Friends Of Academy Party 10pm walked through parking lot to-gether. Spoke about early evening, working Monday. You: Handsome Latin(?) Me: Tall GWM, bald, beard, glasses, with friend. Would love to meet again. S 6902

Embarc J Muni Tues 3/9 4PM
Watched you step down stairs then
boarded as you sat across me along
other side of door. You: exited Montgomery, handsome, hazel-brown eyes,
humble-expression. Me: coffee/hand,
smilling limidly though I continued to
look into your eyes. Dinner? № 6807

Cliff's Hardware 3/15 @ 1:30pm You: brown hair, goatee, jeans, mo-torcycle helmet. Me: blue cords. I stated there were to many choices for key rings. I should have given you my #. Please call

2 6801

Rawhide 2 Fri 3/5 11pm-12mn You: Bob architect, originally 5th gen, Rancher pendleton, or. cinderel-la. You had to leave by midnight? Me: Richard from up north, Would love to get together sometime? **2**0 6802

19Polk From Harrison 3/2 5:10pm You: Cute, very polite blonde boy w/red stache, hooded swishrt. Me: S& P daddy/srn flyt Jacket. We talked. Were U cruising daddy? Yes, sir was interested. Still is-RU? Hope So! № 6806

Brian M. H.
We met United 947 DC to SF last
Friday. We laughed a lot and flired.
think only got salt of your number
from Sat message. Pls call again, I
know you'll make me make it up to
you. Let's laugh some more Les. 22
6900

3/16- Safeway/Portero-8:30pm You: Tall, dk. hair, moustache-great eyes & smile. Me: Green Jacket, Hard Rock b/ball cap & glasses. Eyes caught a few times! Coffee? Beer? 26 6901

Kite Hill Sun 3/21
You, dark hair, white t-shirt, leather coat, playing ball with your dog Astro. Me. short light brown hair, in sweats sitting on bench-watching. Too shy to speak. Please call. 22 6903

Valentine Night @ Hole -In-Wall
The former thespian "Patti Smythe"
and the bald banker from Atlanta
(aka Claire) have fun with a budweiser bottle. I wanna trade hot wheels
with Jeff! Call me! № 6805

Met At Steamworks 3/2 RM 235 You: Japanese, blond-tit-ring. Me: tall, muscular, mustache, would love to eat & fuck that ass some more. Call me. 22 7000

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Analyze This 8" cock, can't get enough- I love hav-ing my dick sucked. My body is in shape and my head is together. I'm over 40. HIV- 150lbs, 5'8" nonsmok-er. ☎ 6809

Smooth, Dark, Fit/Built, 145lbs, 57", 38. Enjoys theatre, movies, beach, outdoors. Looking for wm 26-38. You be smooth/in shape for friends/ possible bf.

6810

Is Real Ltr Possible In SF?
40's GWM, nice guy, 5'8".150#,
avg. build, ns. Looking for 35-50
GWM, stable, height/weight prop, ns
for dating, friendship, leading to
LTR I'm ready. Are you? 22 6811

Handsome Muscular Italian GWM, 38,6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times, seeks another HIV Negative extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. 22 6812

Total Bottom
WM 35,5'10" 155lb, crew cut, bubble butt, washboard abs expert cocksucker, clean bottom. Hot excellent svc for right guy. 22 6814

Romantic Brazilian Guy
36, 57", 132lbs, long brown hair, eyes and skin brown, masculine, educated, clean, Professional. No drugs. Nice hard dick "8". You're GWM. I'll be only for you. Honey moon forever. \$\sqrt{2}\$ 6905

Bear Cat Seeks Bear 39, 190lb. 5'9", bm, gm, moustache /beard, Intelligent, stable. Seeking butch but gentle male, 30-45 years, smart, affectionate, bearded, shaggy, furry. Husband material.Leather/Levis encouraged.

Looking For That Special One SGWM, 26, 5'7", 130 lba, blnd/ble, hairy chest, legs, but open honest. Seeking that special one for love, walks, etc. ☎ 6907

42y/o Prof. GWM + 4y/o Doggie Lost my soulmate 6 yrs ago, due to Mua. I am ready and willing to go forward. You must desire same. ISO Ltr, with one who likes himself and cares. № 6908

Strip Down For My Tongue E.Bay GWM, 55, husky, ISO Latino in-shape.Let me lick the sweat off your balls Tongue your ass. Married, ok, HIV-. 22 6909

Soulmates Sought Oakland 64 year old HIV+, poetic man, smok-er, big dude, seeks to share a living space. Friend or sex good too. Funky versatile fun loving person. 22 6910

Uncut, And Unattached?
Do you want and need a man in your life??? GWM 53, 5'8", 175, bm/bl, beard, HIV- seeks, relationship and Intimacy with loving, bright, fun, affectionate, and horny GM. 22 6911

32yr. Old Asian Want Are you in available market? GAM looking for well-educated honest, m ture GWM who is under 45. For sur tomorrow is a beautiful day! \$\oldsymbol{\Omega}\$ 6912

Trim/Fit 70yo Phi Beta Kappa: Cocksucker all my ex-model/escort, adult gay life,ISO sweet gentle slim attractive guy, any race, w/big dick to start fucking me & making me grow to love it/him! 20 6913

Opportunity Is Not A Lengthy Visitor. GAM, youthful 40s, 57", 142lbs. Good looking, intelligent, ro-mantic, buffed gentleman seeks good-looking, masculine, fit, N/S GWM. Interests: Theater, symphony, c+w dancing, traveling abroad. 22 6914

Mature Partner Sought
GWM, 46,175lbs, HIV-, enjoys quiet
times at home, taking walks. Lkg for
GAM 45-55 to wrap my world
around. Not into bars or drugs. 22
6915

Ready To Settle Down Straight acting 39 WM, into kyaking, surfing, camping, cates, extensive travel, movies & friends, ISO intelli-gent, 18-28 yrs. old, who is naturally smooth and fun to hand out with. No mad queens, 22 6916

HIV+ Male Looking For Others 30y/o male 5'9' 165lbs, looking for other HIV+ males who would like to go out & have a good time. Looking for someone who enjoys dinner, dancing, working out, and traveling. You must be 25-35y/o and physically fit. 22 6808

Mature GWM Seeks Younger Man For intimate love-making sexual times. I'm young looking-acting, 75, 57", 165, sexual and romantic. You: are 18-40, gdlk'g and affectionate like me. Ltr? № 7002

Attractive Latino
33yo goodlooking Latino 5'7", 150#
goatee, professional looking for
GWM between 27-40yo for friendship or more. I like going to movies,
dinner, hiking. Go to dinner, call. 22
7003

Wanted Married Disc. Male
Satisfaction guaranteed by a discreet
prof. seml retired gentleman. East
Bay only. No phonies please.
7004

Looking For Well Hung Man Submissive white male artistic & cre-ative. Looking for more dominate man to care for, you care for me. \$\sigma\$ 6813

Seeking Asian Boyfriend GWM, 39,6'-185#, soft brown hair/ brlght hazel eyes, carling, affection-ate. ISO slim/trim, in-shape, smooth, cleanshaven Asian or Asian-American with nice qualities. \$\mathbf{Q}\$ 7005

European 56 years 5'11" 32"waist. New in SF, seeks friend. Black or Hispanic. Love to kiss etc. Pls call. 22 7006

Tall, Dark, Handsome Cancer HIV+, GWM, 40ish, sexy, 6'3", 185#, goatee, well-educated. Former New Yorker seeks blond or sandy hair taurus, cancer, scorpio, 30-40. Inter-ests: art, lit, theatre for ltr. ☎ 7007

Clark Kent Adman From N.Y.
Assertive, affectionate, articulate,
warm, witty, youthful GWM soulmate/ sexmate, 40,67", 178 brJdr,
HIV-. We will kiss on balcony; in
heated pool & elevator. Midway between gay adolescence and elder
statesmanship. 12 7998

Gay Asian Male Seeking
Other sincere and caring guys (GAMs & GWMs) for dating and possible ltr.
Me: 30's, 57", 150lbs, professional, responsible, goodlooking, HIV-. Let's talk & meet. 22 7009

Quality LTR Oriented GAM ISO
Other professional, sincere honest and
caring men for quality time and hopefully a nurturing long term relationship. 30's, 5'8", 145lbs. 22 7010

Asian Doll For House Boy 42yr. old looking for Asian boy to play with on a regular basis. No strings attached and discreet. 22 7011

Daddy Bear 54 6-5 290 Gray/Blu I want a buddy/brother/boy 18-40 or so. You might share my interests in gardens & gauguin, beaches & blowjobs, football & furniture. Maybeck & movies. You might not. \$\frac{1}{20}\$ 7013

SEEKING **ADVENTURE**

Just Shut -Up And Ride
WM, 34.5°10" 200lb. blond/blue
muscle hunk wants good looking masculine men to pump me or get
pumped. Also love to get massaged
and jerked off-anytime.

6815

Hairy-Ass Daddy

Ass Licker
If yer a hot, muscular, good-looking
dude in your 20's or 30's, this leather
guy wants you to sit on my rim chair
while I eat your ass. 22 6817

Redwood City 43, 190 6'3" med hairy 6" cut thick romantic, seeking any race, topman, handsome 30's-40's, HIV+, height prop. Hairy, 71/2" cut/uncut, thick, short/longhair. Into assplay. Real \$2 6818

Hot Latino Likes To Suck And Get fucked, nice butt. My place ,your place. Under 40's. Redwood City area. 29 years old. Call me. 22 6819

White Pig Bottom Wanted 54 yr. old white top 6'0" 155 drk/brn/ ban glasses. Big 9" cock. Wants hot white big bottom 21-39, who love getting fucked by a big cock. № 6820

Quench My Thirst Looking for guys who want to get me on my knees and piss in my mouth. GWM, 58, 5'10", 165lbs. 42 6821

Afternoon Sex Buddy Wanted
Topman needs bottom. Oral give
/take, lots of hugs and kisses too. Me:
attract, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250lbs.
brown hair/moustache, hairy
chest/stomach. You: attrac GM
(white, Asian, Latin), slim, nice buns,
smooth/moderate bodyhair. ☎ 6822

TellMe2Get0nMyKneesAnd Suck Yes sirl Bottom boy bm/blu sexy/smooth, Takes direction from goodlooking guys 20's/40's, hung cowboys, hispanics, Latinos A plus. Straight, wanna kickback deffinate plus. S 6823

Do You Like It Late At Night? This hot, hung, orally talented insom-niac will get you off! Immediate call back. Smooth & hung preferred. No chit chat, just hot sex. 12 6824

Handsome FF Top Age 43
Hung ,8x51/2. If your shaved, thats a plus Raiph ☎ 6923

You Hung Real Thick? Read On Goodlooking man needs extra fat cocks to lick, suck, kiss and worship Rub it on my face while I tell you ho big, thick and beautiful it is. Verbal A+. \$\sqrt{1}\$ 6827

PERSONAL ARE FREE!

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is TUESDAY at 5 PM, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Daytime Telephone Evening Telephone Address

CATEGORY

Parting Glances Seeking Relationship Seeking Adventure

Lesbian Fetishes Couples [Others

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

Name

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

GBM Oral Expert 36 6'2" 162lbs. Tall, thin, earthy, cy-cling, "Fit". Gardening, yoga, spiri-tual, traveling, Individual ISO similar men with big uncut equipment. S 6828

Experience Masseurs
To massage attractive, smooth Asian
male. I want every Inch of my nude
body massaged with oil-buns, chest,
cock, balls. 22 6829

A1 Oral Service Delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6' handsome, delivers complete oral service to guys who
dig getting sucked off. Prefer trim,
mature, no reciprocation. \$\omega\$ 6830

Handsome Muscular Swimmer
Hot athletic GWM 5'9" 155lbs 30"w
37yo HIV + big dick, tight smooth
butt & body, seeks masc., muscular,
aggressive hung top to suck/ service
35-50yo.

26917

I'm Not The Marine Corps
But have openings for good men.
Total bottom wants only to service
hot tops. Be had and clean. Any age,
race, size. 4918

Regular Sex Buddy
For weekly (discrete?) pleasure,
learning together: Extended intensified orgasm, tantara, mutual massage, frottage, oral, porn, versatile.
Me: biWPM 50 5'10" 180% 8" You:
18-84(Siáan, Hispanic, Foreign a
plus). \$2626

Growl In my bed. You hairy, man legs spread, offering a feast to your cock-boy. ☎ 6919

Let's Undress Each Other GWM 40 5'9" brown/brown, mus tache, in-shape, HIV-, passionate, versatile seeks fit, goodlooking GAM/GLM for oral fun together, maybe more. My place? 22 6921

East European Or Russian Men Trim, HIV-, under 50, 7", wanted for oral sex. No reciprocation necessary. I am a GWM in my 50's, 5'10" 150# dark brown hair, somewhat shy. 12 6924

I Need A Daddy Submissive bi WM son, hwp, always naked for daddy. Love to suck gentle, not hairy, older daddy type. Mommy can watch. HIV negative only. 129 6925

Top Seeks Asian Ass Let my tongue, big cock taste and please your butt. GWM 35 good body, good looks. Try me. 22 7027

Swallow It Down Real Deep WM 40's HIV- very masculine domi-nant, verbal, seeks very submissive HIV- cocksucker with obedient tongue and-hungry deep throat for regular long sessions at your place in SF.

120 6926

MWM Clean-cut Older ISOBottom Pig. For pis-pit-hole-uncut cock etc. You in shape tough tongue. HIV- dis-creet. Your place. Daytime only Sonoma County. No reclprocation from me. 22 6927

Sit On My Face
Well built top, hung big needs, well
built WM (20s-30s) with big firm
hairy butt to eat and fuck. 22 7014

Attn: Bi-Straight Asian Men
Let me give you a deep hot massage,
and a hot tung bath between your
groins and armpits. I'm strong, muscular and aim to please. No reciprocation necessary. 22 7015

Looking To Get Mounted
Old yellow are you out there? If you can help this handsome, 6'2", 30yo. Please call, I'm for real, you be to.
27016

Handsome Top Wants Some Butt! Or nice soft mouth for pumping. I am in shape, blond, nice butt and have 8 uncut inches. For friendly fun bot-toms.

2 7017

Virile Alpha Male ISO Pig Btm 4 weekend wallows. Hairy 6:170 WM, 90t, shaved head. Cut castiro cock in full bush of musky br public hair. Cumhungry eager insat a must. Short, hairy a+. Tats, rings, raunch a++. Travel req 4 ltr. Wooft Heel. Do it! S 7019

Hot & Horny Boy Next Door Lookin' for some hot & horny be/GWM 18-28 with strong sex dri-ves for some wild times. Tall and lean A+. I'm attractive, blond 24y/o bl/m, 57", 145# athletic and ver-satile. 12 6825

Seeking DownTo Earth Bubba Top Me: HIV+ GWM bottom, handsome 43 190 6'3" med. hairy 6" cut romantle in Rwe you: 30s-40's height, weight proportionate, passionate topman, handsome man hairy 7" thick f-buddy with heart smoker ok. Serious only HIV+ So Bay Area. 122 6920

I'm Feeling Kinda Bad Cause Of Something sad, if you wanna help me out, give me a shout. I need a guy who's cute who'll make me lick his boot, in sum, I need to cum.

Daddy ISO V/A Daddies Boy Dominate demanding daddy stocky 40's ISO younger u/c sexual encoun-ters possible Ltr. Into Jock straps, u derwear, dirty talk, sweat, mutual sucking, role playing No holds barred.

6922

Beer Can Dick??
Down to earth tall GWM 50's HIVtop/oralist non-gym looking for male
with average cut fat cock for oral appreclation. Pumpers ok.

27019

You Are 40-60
I love sucking cok & have my tight hole played with, GWM HIV-58 short & slim. Also love being fucked bent over, or j/o. Aroma ok. 22 7020

Raunch Buddy: Masculine
Guy looking to plow some dirty butt:
Prefer big bear types, for hot, dirty
man to man action. 27021

Black Bottom Seeks Top Dominant top verbal, raunch, kink, sleaze, a plus. Available eve & some weekends. 22 7022

Muscle Studs Eat My Big Dick Or get plowed by sexy dad, 55, 6'1", 170. I'll worship your bulging biceps while you deep throat my 9" meat. Muscle guys only please! ☎ 7023

On My Knees Sucking Your Dick If you enjoy getting your big dick sucked as much as I enjoy doing it call. Latino and black cock pref. I'm 45, It brown hair, green eyes, 5'8", heavy. 22 7024

Bittersweet Dark Chocolate BM, HIV-, attractive bear ISO WM/LM to indulge our senses,-suck/lick nipples, toes, cocks, etc. To taste your skin and fuck your body completely. 12 7025

34yrs Tall 175 Brown Eyes ISO Straight men only who enjoy burning their thick meat into my white hair-less bubblebutt. Firm huge balls A+. Black men and Bin+well. Martinez call me and tease me to the max!

7026

Cocksucker Takes It
Hot lips, tongue suks u, cut WM
w/big thick cock n balls kick back for
complete satisfaction. Any age if big
n hard. 22 7029

East European Or Russian Men Trim, HIV- under 50, 7" wanted for oral sex, no reciprocation necessary, am a guy in my 50's, 5'10" 150# dark brown hair, somewhat shy. 12 7031

Submissive Muscular Bottom Goodlooking GWM, 31 185lbs, 5'11" seeks white tops with 8+ who love to fuck and get sucked. Age 20-40. ☎ 7030

Asian Seeks Hot Playmates
30s, 5'8" 140lb, smooth, cute ass,
passionate into hot and sexy lovemak
ing, You: cute, under 40, in-shape
HIV neg. No disease. Most Importantly-HORNY! \$\mathbf{Q}\$ 7032

FETISHES

Scat Top Dominant, hairy, muscular leather daddy, 5'11" 185, likes submissive, hungry bottom dude's to lie under my rim chair and suck my ss. 22 6831

FeetSheerSocksdressShoes Thongs Attractive Latino 32, 5'11' 190, Central American, size 12 shoe, n/s, virgo, would like to meet Latins or Whites. Into same fetish. Under 37. N/S only. No games. 6832

I've Got The Rope... Do you have the balls' Bondage top, 41, 5'8", 155, good looking, ISO submissive, obedient, masculine, in-shape bottom, 25-45, for bondage play. Safe, discreet. SF, East Bay. ☑ 6833

Let's Bare Our Soles!
Lifelong attraction to men's barefeel.
Crave mutual barefoot kissing, licking, smelling, caressing, be
wrestling. Roles, fantasies. J/O. E.B.
sensual GWM w/toe ring, 5'9'', trim,
tan, hairy, HIV- loves barefootin! \$2
6834

Spankings Hot, hard bare butt spankings with hand or paddle. In shape top, will give yo what you need. 22 6835

Butt Munch GWM seeks tight & lean GWM who really gets off being rimmed, If you like it as much as I do- Call me. ♀ 6836

Large Young Smooth Body Types
Wish to meet 18-25 or so with large
smooth shaved upper bodies, esp-body
builder, to put on my 2 camcorders—
the taller, the heavier, the better. 12
6928

Can You Blow Yourself?
Is sucking yourself off your favorite pastime? Like an appreciative audience? Slim healthy senior guy would love to watch. I'm 5'8", balding, dark beard. Call me.

6929

Are You I. S. O.: 24/7 Slave? GL/GWM 38, 195, 5'11", In SF... you have called 3 times with cell phone number. I have tried to call 12-15 times, but can't get enough!! Please leave other means to contact sir! № 6930

Rim Chair Top ISO Hot Mouth GWM, attractive, loves to sit on a rlm chair and talk dirty while you eat suck and lick my tasty hole. Call if you like to pigout eating butt. \$2 6931

Seeking Leg Amputee
GM 39, seeking male leg amputee for
safe erotic times, enjoy movies, dinners, quiet times. I'm same, sincere
and fun. Looking for that special man
with that unique quality to satisfy my
curiosity. 12 6932

Slave Seeks Master
Experienced leather slave, seeks to
meet and serve Master Sadist in his
dungeon or "playspace". Desires
bondage & discipline from an experienced Top Man. Slave is 41 yo,
5'11", beard, hairy, goodlooking,
football player build (work out daily),
drug free.
© 6933

Raunchy Pigs, Punks, Party Boys, Skin wanted. Sweaty, unwashed pissy bodies + clothing appreciated. Cum share your body tastes + smells. 22 6934

Thirsty 1942 Model
Desires to give tollet, rim, and cum service to dominant male. I'm white & slim. You needn't be. Just give or ders. Humiliation & groups A+.

6935

Scruffy Types
'/ve always been attracted to unshaven, unkempt derelicts, street people (not hustler), scruffy types, Tenderloin & 6thSt hurs (gay & mixed),
ISO others who identify with this. I'm
a WLM 42, 6', 155lbs. 12 6936

Wanna Be Dog Owner
ISO yng. dog to train by yng. GWM.
gdlkg. Be submissive, fun, detail-oriented, lite mood sirius focus, beck &
call, cute & healthy. 22 7033

Piss! Piss! Piss! Tiss: Fiss: Fiss: Extremely horny senior 70, 6" 170# 7" uncut ISO heavy piss buddies any age size or color. Bears a plus! 2 7035

Like To Eat Your Own 2 Let me watch you throw your legs back while you Jack a load. I'll do the same. Hot talk, big-cocks, self-suck-ers, exhibitionists, a plus. 12 7036

Top Seek Friendly Rimmers Hamdsome uncut, hairy chest, In-shape well hung top with a bubble butt wants some tongue action for fun and friendly rimmers. Let do it. \$\text{12}\$ 7037

Asian Fetish, Feet, Uncut Cock Beautiful Asian In Kimono, smooth, Jim, uncut 8", seeks experienced master to give boy Intrusive exam, In-struments, cock torment, then give prolonged oral to geisha house boy's cock and legs/toes. 22 7034

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!
7038

Butt Play
Masculine 33, 5'9", 155, 9" with
P.A. loves laying on a sling and have
my butt played with toys, dildos, f.f,
lather, kink. 27039

Black Top Kinky GWM lean smooth big nips hot ass 1SO dominant big dicked black top/daddy/master into extended fuck-ing, service, nipple play w/s b/d. 120 7040

Master 40's, Experienced Looking for whipping boy/bondage slave-eager to please, and serve. Subject-20-38 with some training and the real drive to belong. Subject body to be dedicated to the satisfication of its master, Limits respected by the manufacture time \$7.041 but expanded over time. 22 7041

COUPLES

2 Lovers Seeking Possible 3Rd Me: Bottom 43 6'3" 190 HIV+ handsome very sexual GWM brn/gm med hairy 6" cut 2nd: 49, 6', 200lbs. 8" cut. Non sexual, hairy GWM grey/brn HIV+. Into slaves. 12 6837

OTHER

A Forceful Man Is Desired...
If you are interested in a decreet erotic dominance (s/m,b/d) over another
person, I am available, Older Englishman, trim, durable. 22 6937

Self-Suck! Auto-Fellatio! Self-suckers' showoff meetings; small groups. Can give tips, techniques; help going down. Optional gifts; video of you and other hot self-suckers, lim-bering bodywork, steam bath, electric massagers. 127 7042



Comedy tonight (or whenever)

by Gregg Shapiro

ou didn't have to watch the Grammy Awards in February, where the latest not-so-funny Mel Brooks/Carl Reiner 2000 Year Old Man album won in the comedy category, to know that comedy albums will probably never reach the same popularity they once enjoyed during the 1970s. That's not to say that there aren't more deserving discs released. Here's a run-down of just a few.

Currently on tour, The Firesign Theatre (who have been around for almost as long as Brooks and Reiner) released Give Me Immortality Or Give Me Death (Rhino) last year. A spoof of the ever-changing world of format radio, complete with commercials from mattress sellers, mysterious mega-corporations (US Plus), airlines, movies (the universally hated Pull My String and the forthcoming Glacier), prescription beer, and the lottery. Sportscaster Chump Threads, celebrity reporter/"stalker" Danny Vanilla, live traffic reports (from Captain Happy Panditt in the trafficcopter), DJ Bebop Loco, sex therapist Dr. O'Nann Winquedinque ("an old-hand at self-love") and reporters Harold Hiphugger and Ray Hamberger (French pronunciation) populate the airwaves with multiple references to Joe Camel and the millennium. The station changes formats through-

out the course of the disc, going from "souped-up, suggestive, desensitized, bite-me, environmental now radio" to "detoxified, gender-blind, re-babblized, up-allnight talk radio." GLAMA (Gay and Lesbian

GLAMA (Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards) nominee Sandra Bernhard's live recording of her recent hit stage show I'm Still Here... Damn It (TVT) is almost as wickedly funny and brilliant as the almost ten-year-old recording of her show Without You I'm Nothing. Recorded prior to the Broadway opening of I'm Still Here... during a 1998 Valentine's Day performance, Bernhard takes on the topics of the day (last year's days, at least) including cell phones, the deaths of famous people (John

Denver, Princess Diana, Mother Teresa, Gianni Versace), self-important celebrities and fashion models, '69, caller ID, bottled water, Courtney Love, Lilith Fair, hepatitis, National Geographic, Christine McVie, spiders, Morocco, and her house-painter Herminio. She even makes reference to Without You I'm Nothing.

I'm Telling You For The Last Time (Universal) is also a recording of a live performance. It came.

I'm Telling You For The Last Time (Universal) is also a recording of a live performance. It captures, on disc, Jerry Seinfeld's historic return to stand-up comedy during the summer of 1998. It's good to know that there are enough humorous topics to go around so that there is virtually no duplication of material. However, Seinfeld, like Bernhard, does riffs on taxis and telephones. Se-

infeld also covers airports, Florida, candy, male-female relations, extreme sports, late-night television programs, travel and gambling to name a few.

sion programs, travel and gambling, to name a few.
Part Beastie Boys, part Mickey
Katz, 19.99 (Sire/Warner Brothers) by M.O.T. (Members of the
Tribe) is comedy you can dance
to. Ice Berg and Dr. Dreidle perform songs such as "Emmes G,"
"Psychosemitic," "Double Dutch
Lunch," "Kosher Nostra," "Havana Nagillah" and "Viva Oy
Vegas," updating Jewish humor
and taking it where it's never
gone before. \textsquare.

The Firesign Theatre plays the Warfield Theatre on April 9 and 10.

Out There

◆ page 30

men toward their arena of greatest possibility was Muriel's méti-

After one slogs though many chapters on the raising of funds and other preparations for the opera, the book finally pays off with a quite fun account of Four Saints' opening night at the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, Connecticut. We learn, for example, that aesthete Carl Van Vechten made three entrances (he later raved that "the Negroes [the opera's cast] are divine!") And the Stein/Thomson/choreographer Frederick Ashton/directions and the properties of the stein/Thomson/choreographer Frederick Ashton/directions and the stein the

tor John Houseman confection really was the forerunner of the modern multimedia performance. There would have been no Glass/Wilson Einstein on the Beach without it, no Ashley Perfect Lives, no Anderson United States I-IV. And then where would we be?

We're looking forward to Anderson's performance of Moby Dick, which Cal Performances has announced for October 26-30 at Zellerbach Hall. We can't think of a better collaborator for great gay author Herman Melville. When we discussed her new musical theatre project with her in an interview last year, we asked Laurie Anderson, why Moby Dick?

"What I love about the book

— when you try to tell the story in film, it comes off as, 'Guys go fishing!'" Anderson said. "I don't know if you saw that Moby Dick on cable a few months ago? Patrick Stewart was Ahab, and he did all these over-the-top Shakespearean monologues: 'I am darkness leaping out of light!' I'm interested in that contrast between the grittiness of being on a whale ship, and looking for something you want, knowing that it will kill you.

"And everyone dies in the end, of course, except Ishmael, who is left to tell the tale... Ishmael always reminds me of the nerd in the back of the rock 'n' roll tour bus, you know, who's busy writing down everything people say, and

will come out with the book later."

Class reunion

The highlight of In Your Ear, an album of music from independent films (1m1 Trax/Hybrid), is songwriter Zane Campbell's previously unreleased "Post-Mortem Bar" from Norman Rene's 1990 AIDS film Longtime Companion. It's the song which goes with that great scene in which everybody we've lost to the plague is reunited on a beach to tell their stories and catch up, and it's a pretty good song in its own right. The albumalso includes Jill Wisoff's "Welcome to the Dollhouse" from the film of the same name; Morphine's "Sheila" from Spanking the Monkey; and The Pogues' "The Old Main Drag" from Gus Van Sant's My Own Private Idaho. Hey, who knew indie film was so goddamn tuneful?

lege Theater, 777 Valencia St. Tickets are \$5-10; call 437-3454.

Black horse

Not to end on a down note, but Black Tar Heroin: The Dark End of the Street is a real-life Streets of San Francisco set to air later this month on HBO. Steven Okazaki's documentary follows the downward trajectories of five heroin addicts, ages 18 to 25, lured by Mexican, or "black tar" heroin. A dealer notes in the film, "Of all the heroins in the world, Mexican heroin is the worst. It looks like shit and does your body like shit."

The young people profiled in Black Tar Heroin include Jake, 21, and Oreo, 19, both of whom work as prostitutes to support their habit. Oreo (he's half-black) has been turning tricks since he was 14; Jake finds whoring "degrading" and says he's been raped four



Dueling intercoms, War Memorial Opera House

Opera plaza

Heard over the intercom outside the disabled entrance to the War Memorial Opera House: "I'm sorry, you're here to see the ballet. You have just pressed the intercom for the opera. For entrée, you'll have to press the other buzzer."

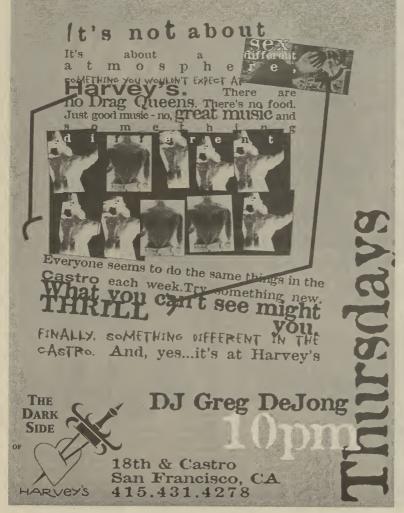
Coulda hadda V8

Here's the advance word on a new play by SF luminaries Kevin Killian and Rex Ray, Vegetable Kingdom: the plot involves TV game show producers trying to get late vegetarian/frozen-foods queen Linda McCartney and Fluxus diva/vocally-challenged Yoko Ono, historic nemeses, on their show as celebrity contestants to pump up the ratings. Knowing the wit and wisdom of Killian and Ray, we're sure the eggplant will fly! In fact we'd bet our celery on it. The cast of local arts celebs includes CCAC curator Larry Rinder, who has his finger in the pie of the upcoming Whitney Biennial; artists Phoebe Gloeckner, Cliff Hengst, Scott Hewicker, and many more. Small Press Traffic presents VK on Saturday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. at New Col-

times. Two of the five addicts know they're HIV-positive. None of them have happy stories. If, like us, you have to look away when needles pierce veins, you'll miss much of the film. Still, the documentary is an honest portrayal of some true lives that are part of our urban landscape. Check your cable listings.



Alice and Oreo, Black Tar Heroin



Naiad, nifty and not

by Deborah Peifer

Those Who Wait by Peggy J. Herring; Naiad, \$11.95

Omaha's Bell by Penny Hayes;

When Some Body Disappears by Therese Szymanski; Naiad, \$11.95

t's not the worst thing in the t's not the worst thing in the world to have a best friend who shares every intimate detail (when, where, how many) of her fabulous sex life when you're not getting any, although when she does it following a particularly nasty break-up, it ranks right up there with root canal on the pain scale. Cheryl's lover, Mickey, left her by leaving a note on their kitchen table: "I'm in Mexico with my new lover. I'll be back in a week. We'll talk then." That's cold, but what do you do with the torch but what do you do with the torch that you're carrying when the ex returns raring to jump back in bed, and you realize she has no in-

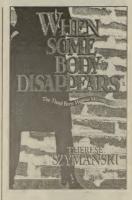


tention of giving up those regular flings? Peggy Herring explores friendship, love, relationships, and family, with delicacy and dexterity. Her main characters are carefully and believably drawn. *Those* Who Wait is an entertaining read

Is Penny Hayes a time traveler? How else can her skill at capturing the past be explained (oh yes, I



suppose intelligence, lots of re-search, and real writing skill might do it, but what fun is that)? In her latest, *Omaha's Bell*, she artfully paints a portrait of women's lives in the late 19th-century American West that is fascinating, funny, and full of feeling. Her characters are vivid, the plots compelling. I particularly admire her ability to give



her readers all the information we need about those times without ever resorting to tedious lectures. Omaha's Bell rings entirely true.

On another note, albeit a flat and untuneful one, we have (oh, god) the 3rd Brett Higgins mystery, When Some Body Disappears, an exercise in reader abuse so severe that Amnesty International

should look into the matter. Our should look into the matter. Our hero, on the lam from both the law and the Mafia types she pissed off over the years, is still pretend-ing to be dead and using the name Sam. Her lover, Allie, continues to Sam. Her lover, Allie, continues to call her Brett, however, which seems not a wise choice what with the hiding and all. When Brett and Allie see a man murdered on a deserted street, they chase the gunman for many blocks, and then return to the murder scene, where some body has disappeared. They wait for the police even though the body is gone, and even though being seen by the police in a crime-scene kind of situation is not a good idea when you are hiding from them. If you can imagine such a thing (try), Therese Szymanski's writing is actually getting worse, her plots tually getting worse, her plots more ridiculous. Her characters are down to a mere fraction of a dimension, and the dialogue is painfully drab and stilted. In the absence of a guarantee of eternal life, and maybe even then, you do not have a moment to waste on When Some Body Disappears.

Palpable pain

by Deborah Peifer

Watermark by Karin Kallmaker;

f all Karin Kallmaker's very fine novels, my favorite is Touchwood, her extraordinary exploration of love between generations. The tale of Louisa and Rayann, two adults terrified by their feelings for each other be-cause of the seemingly insurcause of the seemingly insur-mountable gap in their ages, of-fered a believable, indeed, perfect-ly rational, hope for true love de-spite difficulties. Please believe that the novel was considerably more complex and much more entertaining than my brief expli-cation. Her newest novel, Watermark, is a sequel to Touchwood, and, mirabile dictu, it may even be

better.

Theresa is just beginning her new job at a huge ad agency when she encounters Rayann, boss from hell, a cold bitch who uses language to wound and appears incapable of any hint of kindness or fellow feeling. Moments later, Theresa quits in a rage, We learn what Theresa does not know, that Rayann's true love, Louisa, has been hit by a drunk driver, and is dying by excruciatingly painful inches. When, after a series of interim events, Theresa and Rayann erim events, Theresa and Rayann end up working at another agency, Theresa is furious when she realizes that Rayann doesn't even remember her, and horrified when she discovers that Rayann has been transformed from passionate bitch to lifeless shell

The movement toward friend-ship, lust, love is the framework of

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this novel, but its heart is Kallthis novel, but its heart is Kall-maker's stunning exploration of loss. Rayann's pain is rendered palpable as we journey with her through the devastation of living on after any reason for living has exploded in death. Kallmaker has always been a fine writer, but in Watermark she exhibits a depth that is gut verne him [1]. that is gut-wrenching. In a telling moment, Rayann is stuck on the Bay Bridge, when she looks out the window: "The sunset in the rearview mirror was incredible. She only noticed it because it was another beautiful sunset she was-

another beautiful sunset she wasn't watching with Louisa."
Don't think that Watermark is
unrelentingly dreary, though, because Kallmaker uses a sure end to
bring humor, love and friendship
into the mix. Her characters,
major and minor, are completely
alive, always fascinating, and we
care shout them passionately. This ance, aways lastinating, and we care about them passionately. This is a rich, compelling, wonderful novel, one that will live long in your memory and your heart. ▼

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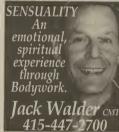
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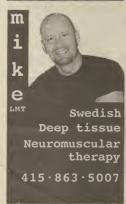
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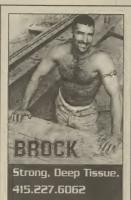
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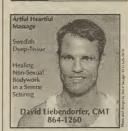
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Some people spend \$3.99 a minute to find the love of their life or a one night stand.

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So let's recap, shall we?

- 1. The Number is the largest, most popular gay chat phone line in the United States (The Number family has locations in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles as "Malefon", New York, Boston, Amsterdam, London, Manchester, Paris and Cologne.)
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